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February 7, 2026

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AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION FOR GLOBAL KAMMA ORGANIZATIONS
K.G.F

Kamma Global Federation

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Dear Members of the Kamma Community !

Kamma Mahaanadu
2026
(Kamma Naidus Grand Assembly)

8th February – Sunday, 3.30pm
Sendamangalam, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu
(Chennai–Bengaluru National Highway)

Under the esteemed leadership of the Kamma Global Federation, along with the Tamil Kamma associations, we are proud to organize the historic gathering "Kamma Mahaanadu - 2026," with the participation of lakhs of people.

The primary goal of this grand assembly is to unite the 6.5 million strong Kamma population of Tamil Nadu.

Come... let us unite, raise our voice, and proclaim our strength to the world. When we stand together with one purpose, the future belongs to us. Opportunity is ours... Power is ours!

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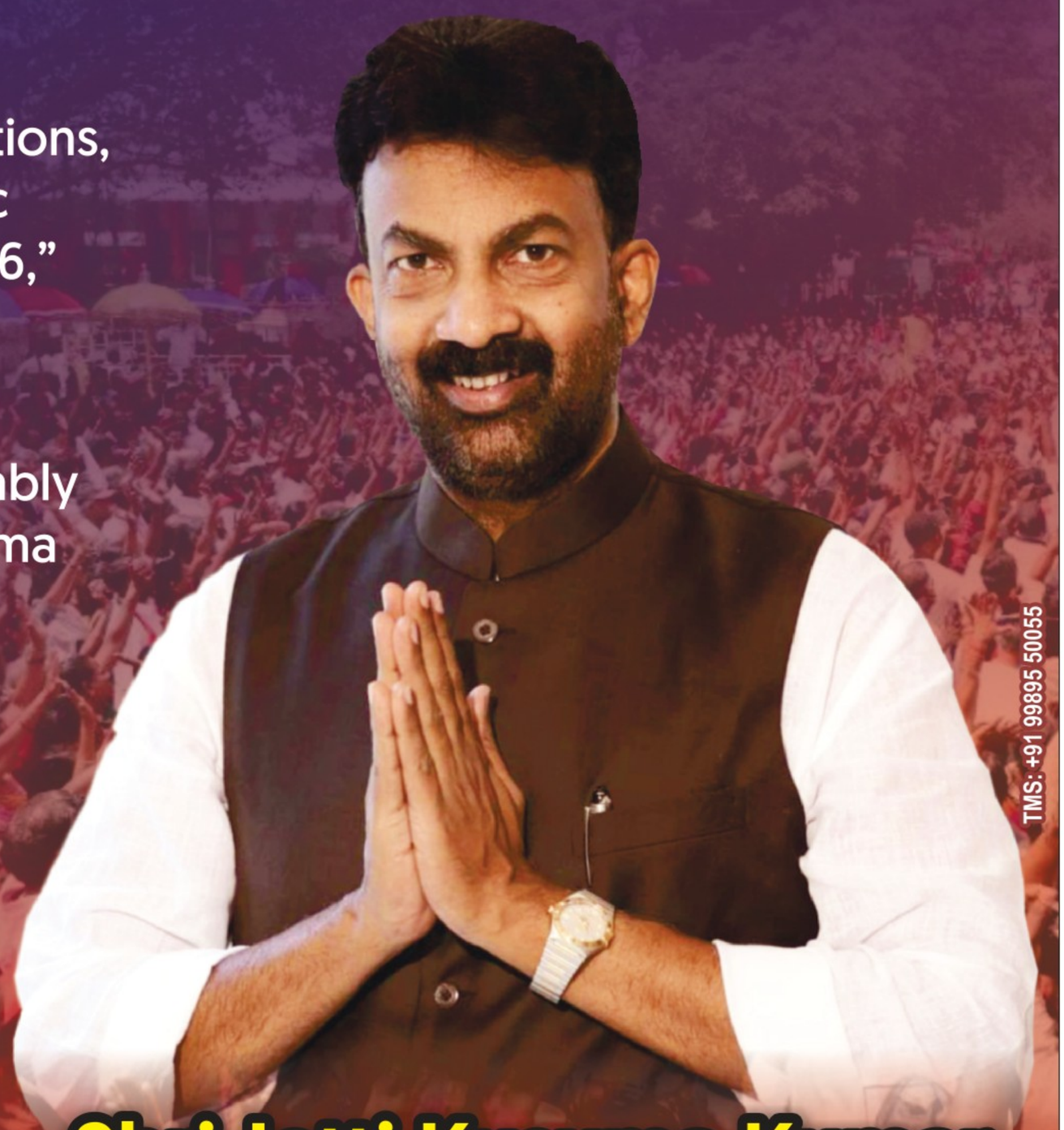

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Founder & President, Kamma Global Federation (KGF)

O proud Kamma people across the world... unite !
The call of Kamma Mahaanadu is upon us - step forward and be part of history.

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TEEN TITANS

India regains U-19 World Cup

Suryavanshi's blistering knock of 175 sets up a thumping 100-run win against England

SPORT » PAGE 20

CHABAHAR PORT

$120-million payment completed, says MEA

NEWS » PAGE 12

SHOCKING TURN

A panchayat dream and a child's murder

How a daughter was sacrificed for power

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

'GHOOSKHOR PANDAT'

U.P. books filmmakers over title of movie

NEWS » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Private sleeper bus catches fire passengers safe

BENGALURU
A Kalaburagi-bound private non-AC sleeper bus went up in flames after an accident near Nelamangala post-midnight on Thursday, police said. All passengers and the crew are safe. » PAGE 5

CM tells farmers to oppose VB-G RAM G Act

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called upon farmers to "unanimously oppose" the VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, brought in by the Union government in place of the MGNREGA.

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PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

India's oil imports from Russia hit 38-month low

Russia's share in India's crude oil imports dropped to 25% in December from 34% the previous month; U.S. President has claimed India will stop Russian oil imports in exchange for lower tariffs

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The value of India's crude oil imports from Russia fell to a 38-month low of $2.7 billion in December 2025, with Russian oil making up less than a quarter of India's imports, down from 34% just a month before, an analysis of the latest official data shows. Oil imports from the U.S., on the other hand, grew nearly 31% over December 2024.

Over the last week, U.S. President Donald Trump and his team have repeatedly claimed that India will stop its purchases of Russian oil in exchange for the U.S. cutting tariffs on Indian imports from 50% to 18%.

India, however, has neither confirmed nor denied this specific assertion. Instead, it has maintained that it is diversifying its energy sources "in keeping with objective market conditions and evolving international dynamics".

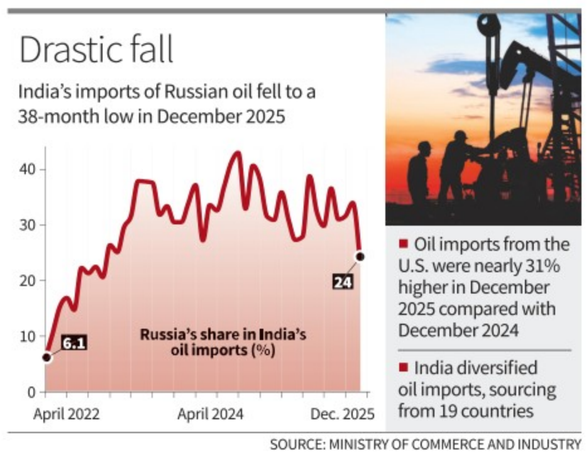
According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India's Russian oil imports, at $2.7 billion in December 2025, were 15% lower than the amount imported in December 2024 and 27.1% lower than the $3.7 billion worth of imports in November 2025.

As a result, Russia's share in India's overall oil imports fell to 24.9% in December 2025, the lowest in three years. In terms of volume, too, India imported only 5.8 million tonnes of oil from Russia, the lowest since February 2025.

India imported $569.3 million worth of oil from the U.S. in December 2025. While this was 60.5% lower than the amount imported in November 2025, that was because November saw oil imports from the U.S. surging to a seven-month high. Oil imports from the U.S. were nearly 31% higher than in December 2024.

In volume terms, India imported 1.1 million tonnes from the U.S. in December 2025, 58% higher than in December 2024.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12



SOURCE: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Suicide attack at Shia mosque kills 31 in Pak.

Grief-stricken: Relatives of victims of the suicide attack at a Shia mosque outside a hospital in Islamabad on Friday. AFP

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

A suicide blast at a Shia mosque in Islamabad killed at least 31 people on Friday, with a police source saying more than 169 are wounded in the deadliest attack in Pakistan's capital since the 2008 Marriott bombing.

City officials said 31 people died in the blast at the Imam Bargah Qasr-e-Khadijatul Kubra mosque in the Tarlai area on the city's outskirts.

"The attacker was stopped at the gate and detonated himself," a security source said.

The casualty figure was "expected to rise further", a senior police official said.

Muhammad Kazim, a 52-year-old worshipper, said an "extremely powerful" explosion ripped through the building as prayers were starting. "During the first bow of the *Namaz* (prayer ritual), we heard gunfire," he said. "And while we were still in the bowing position, an explosion occurred."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

No leadership change in State: Yathindra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son and MLC Yathindra yet again made aggressive remarks on the leadership issue in Karnataka by maintaining that the Congress high command had sent a clear signal that there will be no leadership change in the State.

He expressed confidence about his father completing the full five year term as Chief Minister at the helm in Karnataka.

In a sarcastic response, Deputy Chief Ministger said: "He (Yathindra) is our high command. I will accept whatever he says with respect. When he has made a statement as if he is the high command, let us accept him as the high command." He said: "I will not react. Whatever reaction will have to be given by Delhi authorities."

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

Faith meets conservation

A woman feeds Deccan Mahseer (Tor khudree), locally known as Bili Meenu or Devara Meenu (God's fish) at Shishila Matsya Teertha, on the banks of Kapila river in Dakshina Kannada district. The site, centered around the historic Shishileshwara Temple, is home to one of India's richest temple fish sanctuaries. K. MURALI KUMAR

IISc increases tuition fee for Bachelor of Science (Research) programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) on Friday announced that the tuition fee for the Bachelor of Science (Research) programme will be hiked from ₹10,000 to ₹80,000 for the academic year 2026-27.

IISc said that the tuition fee for the programme will be ₹80,000 per annum, on a par with other high-ranking Indian academic institutions.

"The tuition fee had remained unchanged at ₹10,000 per annum since the inception of the programme in 2011," the IISc said.

The institute added that the PhD programmes and some master's programmes will also see an increase in the tuition fee. It said that these changes will apply from the forthcoming academic year, once new admissions begin, and do not apply to existing students at the institute.

"The change in fee structure has been implemented after careful consideration and review, with the goal of sustaining and improving the institute's academic programmes, resources, facilities, and other support services, to provide exceptional, well-rounded education for students at all levels," the IISc said.

It further said that the institute will provide financial support towards tuition fee waivers/tuition fee reimbursement for all reserved category and EWS students.

Details on admissions and timelines for the new academic year will be announced soon on the IISc admissions website (https://admissions.iisc.ac.in/).

The IISc says 'the tuition fee had remained unchanged at ₹10,000 per annum since the inception of the programme in 2011'. FILE PHOTO

VIJAY SONEJI

Can't have any excuses in India; important to score whenever you bat

Padikkal has made heaps of runs in domestic cricket, but has just four international caps to show for his efforts. Yet, his drive to excel is unaffected. In this conversation, the 25-year-old talks about his batting evolution, the challenges of adapting to three formats, up-skilling in a cramped calendar, dealing with the competition for places, and his near- and long-term goals

> You don't have hours and hours at the practice grounds. It's important that you train your mind in such a way that you are able to make that adjustment once you think about it

INTERVIEW

Devdutt Padikkal

N. Sudarshan

Runs in Indian domestic cricket are not inflation-proof. There are so many good batters, and such is the competition to get into the national team, that just one big pile of runs doesn't always cut it.

No one knows this better than Devdutt Padikkal. The 25-year-old averages an astonishing 82.23 in List-A cricket – including the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy where he scored 725 runs at 90.62 in Karnataka's semifinal run – but is yet to play an ODI.

In 2023-24, he made 812 First Class runs at 81.20, with a half-century in his debut Test against England in Dharamshala, but has played for India just once more (Australia, Perth, November 2024). Interestingly, his international bow was in T20Is in 2021, when he played two fixtures in Sri Lanka as part of a second-string team.

Yet, Padikkal's drive to excel remains intact. Apart from the recent Vijay Hazare exploits, he had an impactful IPL in 2025, scoring 247 runs at a strike-rate of 150.60 as Royal Challengers Bengaluru lifted its maiden crown.

Last weekend in the Ranji Trophy versus Punjab, in his first outing as Karnataka captain, he played a match-winning knock (120 n.o., 85b, 6x4, 5x6) as his side chased down a 250-run target in 28 overs to qualify for the knockouts. Padikkal spoke to *The Hindu* after the pulsating contest. Excerpts:

How do you sum up your season so far?

It's been great, I've enjoyed my batting. Whenever possible, I've tried to contribute to the side. At the end of the day, it was important for me to win those trophies that we played in. Unfortunately, that's not happened so far. That's something that I'm disappointed about but hopefully can make it right in the Ranji Trophy.

> I'm at a really good place right now... You can't be second-guessing yourself. That's something that I have learnt in the last few years that I've been playing at the highest level

How have you grown as a batter?

I'm at a really good place right now. I want to score runs every time I go out and play, and I'm also constantly trying to improve. Even in these four innings that I've played in the Ranji Trophy so far [vs. Madhya Pradesh and Punjab], I've felt that there are things that I need to improve. Especially playing spin, considering what we've been going through as an Indian side. So it was important that I came back and worked on those things, and I'm happy that I was able to show that [vs. Punjab].

You are an all-format batter, but the formats are changing so drastically. How do you make adjustments?

To be honest, it's not that easy. I've tried to mentally make that switch. But turnaround time being less makes it very hard. At the same time, we can't have any excuses in India. It's important to score runs whenever you go out to bat, and that's the mindset I have.

You had an impressive IPL 2025. Not many runs, but they came at a high strike-rate. Was that you evolving?

Definitely. That was a big confidence boost. The previous couple of IPL seasons weren't great for me. And IPL being one of the premier tournaments, confidence from a good IPL definitely carries through to the rest of your season. So I was happy that all the work I put in came in handy during the IPL season as well as after that.

You also bat at different positions for India, Karnataka and RCB. How do you go about that?

Batting at multiple positions is something that you have to adapt to in the current era. When you bat in different formats, you learn to bat in different positions as well. Some of the shots you saw [vs. Punjab], I probably wouldn't have played them if I was just opening all my career. It was something that I developed because I was batting in the middle-overs, etc.

Modern-day cricket is high-risk and demanding. How do you deal with failure?

You have to back yourself. You can't be second-guessing yourself. That's something that I have learnt in the last few years that I've been playing at the highest level. You have to back your skills and the work you've put in. You have to trust your instincts to take over once you're on the field.

But in this jam-packed calendar, how do you find time to work on specific skills and adjustments you may have to make to continuously grow?

The most time you get is the seven hours of sleep in your room [laughs]. Honestly, there isn't much time to sit back and think. You have to learn to make those adjustments in your mind and hope they translate onto the pitch. You don't have hours and hours at the practice grounds. It's important that you train your mind in such a way that you are able to make that adjustment once you think about it.

What have you learnt from being around the national set-up and the IPL?

Definitely the hunger and drive that top players have to win games. How much value each win has, how much it means to take the side through and be that guy who stands tall at the end... what happened [vs. Punjab] may not have happened five or six years ago when I wasn't part of that set-up. That's something that I've picked up, and hopefully I can continue to emulate.

When you look at the batting depth that the country has, does it intimidate or motivate you?

I won't lie. It used to intimidate me five or six years back. I used to think that it's really hard to make it to the Indian side. You have to do so much more. But there comes a time when you need to just enjoy cricket. It's not about getting picked for India or being selected in some team or the other. It's just about enjoying the game that you've always loved. And the moment you start doing that, the rest of the things fall into place.

You have only four international caps. Does that disappoint you?

Obviously, I want to get as many opportunities as possible. But like you already mentioned the competition that exists in India... it's not easy to get a longer run. You have to work hard. You have to show that you belong. And that's what I'm trying to do. Every day I come out to bat, I'm trying to score. Hopefully I'll get that long run.

What is the next iteration of Devdutt Padikkal?

I have to keep getting better. As a cricketer, you work on one thing, and the next day you realise something else has gone down. It's just very natural. You can't always have every base in check and you have to make compromises. And I have to find that balance and continue to make sure that my game is in such a place that I can be consistent.

What are your near- and long-term targets?

Immediate target is to win the Ranji Trophy. That's something I've always wanted to do. Long-term target is to win everything that I play.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	22	13,650	19
2	Jannik Sinner	24	10,300	18
3	Novak Djokovic	38	5,280	19
4	Alexander Zverev	28	4,605	24
5	Lorenzo Musetti	23	4,405	23
6	Alex de Minaur	26	4,080	23
7	Taylor Fritz	28	3,940	23
8	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	3,725	26
9	Ben Shelton	23	3,600	23
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,235	28
11	Daniil Medvedev	29	3,060	25
12	Casper Ruud	27	2,945	22
13	Jack Draper	24	2,790	17
14	Andrey Rublev	28	2,600	25
15	A. Davidovich Fokina	26	2,535	26

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 281 ▲ No change

Aryan Shah
Rank 402 ▼ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	10,990	20
2	Iga Swiatek	24	7,978	20
3	Elena Rybakina	26	7,610	23
4	Amanda Anisimova	24	6,680	21
5	Coco Gauff	21	6,423	20
6	Jessica Pegula	31	6,103	23
7	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,731	20
8	Jasmine Paolini	30	4,267	19
9	Belinda Bencic	28	3,342	20
10	Elina Svitolina	31	3,205	16
11	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,983	25
12	Linda Noskova	21	2,761	24
13	Victoria Mboko	19	2,606	21
14	Naomi Osaka	28	2,366	19
15	Madison Keys	30	2,351	19

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 425 ▼ 55 spots

Vaidehee Chaudhari
Rank 476 ▼ 6 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	24	16	5	3	46	17	29	53
2	Man. City	24	14	5	5	49	23	26	47
3	Aston Villa	24	14	4	6	35	26	9	46
4	Man. United	24	11	8	5	44	36	8	41
5	Chelsea	24	11	7	6	42	27	15	40
6	Liverpool	24	11	6	7	39	33	6	39
7	Brentford	24	11	3	10	36	32	4	36
8	Sunderland	24	9	9	6	27	26	1	36
9	Fulham	24	10	4	10	34	35	-1	34
10	Everton	24	9	7	8	26	27	-1	34
11	Newcastle	24	9	6	9	33	33	0	33
12	Bournemouth	24	8	9	7	40	43	-3	33
13	Brighton	24	7	10	7	34	32	2	31
14	Tottenham	24	7	8	9	35	33	2	29
15	Crystal Palace	24	7	8	9	25	29	-4	29
16	Leeds United	24	6	8	10	31	42	-11	26
17	N. Forest	24	7	5	12	24	35	-11	26
18	West Ham	24	5	5	14	29	48	-19	20
19	Burnley	24	3	6	15	25	47	-22	15
20	Wolves	24	1	5	18	15	45	-30	8

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	23	18	1	4	52	19	33	55
2	AC Milan	23	14	8	1	38	17	21	50
3	Napoli	23	14	4	5	33	21	12	46
4	Juventus	23	13	6	4	39	18	21	45
5	Roma	23	14	1	8	27	14	13	43
6	Como	23	11	8	4	37	16	21	41
7	Atalanta	23	9	9	5	30	20	10	36
8	Lazio	23	8	8	7	24	21	3	32
9	Udinese	23	9	5	9	26	34	-8	32
10	Bologna	23	8	6	9	32	30	2	30
11	Sassuolo	23	8	5	10	27	29	-2	29
12	Cagliari	23	7	7	9	28	31	-3	28
13	Torino	23	7	5	11	22	40	-18	26
14	Genoa	23	5	8	10	27	34	-7	23
15	Cremonese	23	5	8	10	20	31	-11	23
16	Parma	23	5	8	10	15	30	-15	23
17	Lecce	23	4	6	13	13	30	-17	18
18	Fiorentina	23	3	8	12	25	36	-11	17
19	Pisa	23	1	11	11	19	40	-21	14
20	Verona	23	2	8	13	18	41	-23	14

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	22	18	1	3	60	23	37	55
2	Real Madrid	22	17	3	2	47	18	29	54
3	Atletico Madrid	22	13	6	3	38	17	21	45
4	Villarreal	21	13	3	5	39	23	16	42
5	Real Betis	22	9	8	5	36	28	8	35
6	Espanyol	22	10	4	8	26	27	-1	34
7	Celta Vigo	22	8	9	5	29	23	6	33
8	Real Sociedad	22	7	7	8	30	30	0	28
9	Osasuna	22	7	5	10	26	27	-1	26
10	Alaves	22	7	4	11	20	27	-7	25
11	Athletic Club	22	7	4	11	21	31	-10	25
12	Girona	22	6	7	9	21	36	-15	25
13	Elche	22	5	9	8	30	32	-2	24
14	Real Mallorca	22	6	6	10	28	34	-6	24
15	Sevilla	22	7	3	12	29	37	-8	24
16	Valencia	22	5	8	9	23	35	-12	23
17	Getafe	22	6	5	11	16	27	-11	23
18	Rayo Vallecano	22	5	7	10	18	30	-12	22
19	Levante	21	4	6	11	24	34	-10	18
20	Real Oviedo	22	3	7	12	12	34	-22	16

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	20	16	3	1	74	18	56	51
2	Dortmund	20	13	6	1	41	19	22	45
3	Hoffenheim	20	13	3	4	43	23	20	42
4	Stuttgart	20	12	3	5	37	26	11	39
5	RB Leipzig	20	11	3	6	38	27	11	36
6	Leverkusen	19	11	2	6	38	26	12	35
7	SC Freiburg	20	7	6	7	31	33	-2	27
8	E. Frankfurt	20	7	6	7	40	45	-5	27
9	Union Berlin	20	6	6	8	25	33	-8	24
10	Cologne	20	6	5	9	29	32	-3	23
11	FC Augsburg	20	6	4	10	24	37	-13	22
12	M'gladbach	20	5	6	9	24	33	-9	21
13	Hamburg	19	4	7	8	19	29	-10	19
14	Wolfsburg	20	5	4	11	28	42	-14	19
15	Werder	20	4	7	9	22	38	-16	19
16	Mainz	20	4	6	10	23	33	-10	18
17	St Pauli	20	3	5	12	18	34	-16	14
18	Heidenheim	20	3	4	13	19	45	-26	13

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Saud Shakeel	734	787
10	Shubman Gill	730	807

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Noman Ali	843	853
3	Mitchell Starc	838	852
4	Matt Henry	836	853
5	Pat Cummins	832	914
6	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	845	845
2	Virat Kohli	795	909
3	Ibrahim Zadran	764	764
4	Rohit Sharma	757	882
5	Shubman Gill	723	847
6	Babar Azam	722	898
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shai Hope	701	802
9	Charith Asalanka	672	725
10	K.L. Rahul	670	683

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	710	799
2	Jofra Archer	650	683
3	Keshav Maharaj	646	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	645	648
5	Adil Rashid	632	675
6	Josh Hazlewood	628	727
6	Maheesh Theekshana	628	686
8	Kuldeep Yadav	625	761
9	Abrar Ahmed	624	630
10	Mitchell Santner	617	657

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	917	931
2	Phil Salt	834	881
3	Jos Buttler	769	794
4	Tilak Varma	766	845
5	Pathum Nissanka	759	794
6	Suryakumar Yadav	728	912
7	Sahibzada Farhan	715	776
8	Travis Head	692	885
9	Tim Seifert	683	727
10	Mitchell Marsh	663	694

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Varun Chakaravarthy	776	818
2	Abrar Ahmed	748	748
3	Rashid Khan	737	828
4	Adil Rashid	710	747
5	Jacob Duffy	684	750
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	809
7	Mohammad Nawaz	672	672
8	Mustafizur Rahman	665	718
9	Adam Zampa	661	746
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	656	757

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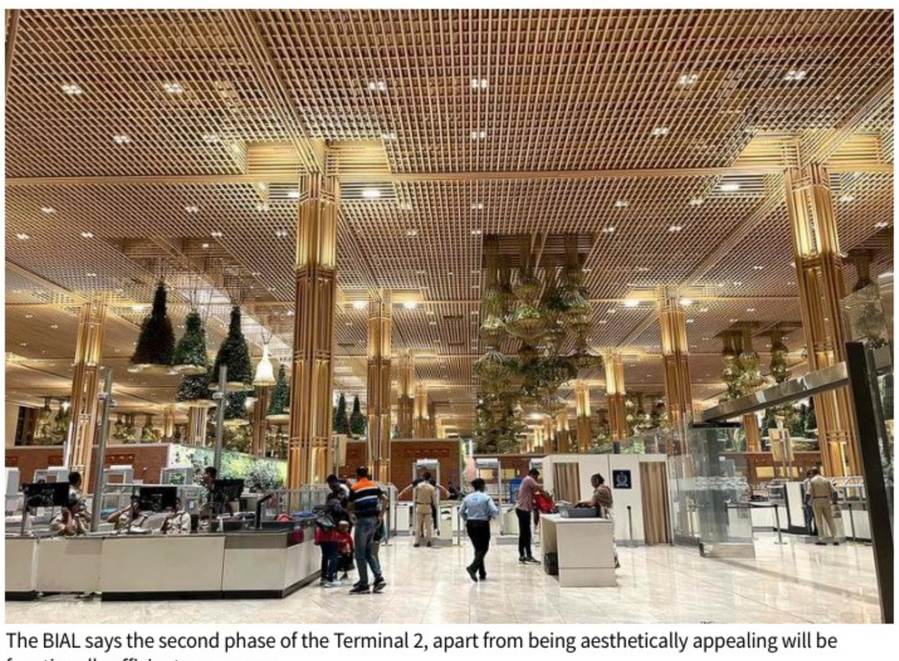
కమ్మ మహానాడు
2026
ప్రియ బంధువులారా !
8 ఫిబ్రవరి- ఆదివారం, మ॥ 3.30 గం॥లకు
సేందమంగళం, శ్రీ పెరంబదూర్, తమిళనాడు
(చెన్నై-బెంగళూరు జాతీయ రహదారి)
కమ్మ గ్లోబల్ ఫెడరేషన్ ఆధ్వర్యంలో
తమిళ కమ్మ సంఘాలు కలిసి సంయుక్తంగా
లక్షలాది మందితో నిర్వహిస్తున్న
చారిత్రాత్మక ఘట్టం 'కమ్మ మహానాడు - 2026'
తమిళనాడులోని 65 లక్షల మంది
శక్తివంతమైన కమ్మ జనాభాని ఏకతాటిపైకి
తీసుకురావడమే ముఖ్యోద్దేశం.
రండి.. ఒక్కటై గళమెత్తి జగమంతా ఎలుగెత్తి
మన శక్తిని చాటుదాం, మనమంతా ఏకమైతే,
మన లక్ష్యం ఒక్కటైతే.. అవకాశం మనదే..!
అధికారం మనదే..!!
కమ్మ మహానాడుకు తరలి రండి..
కమ్మ శక్తిని, ప్రపంచానికి చాటి చెప్పండి.
మీరూ పాల్గొనండి., పదిమందిని కదిలించండి..
మన సత్తా చాటండి...!
TMS: +91 99895 50055
శ్రీ జెట్టి కుసుమ కుమార్
ఫౌండర్ & ప్రెసిడెంట్, కమ్మ గ్లోబల్ ఫెడరేషన్ (KGF)
ప్రపంచ కమ్మ మహా జనులారా... ఏకం కండు..!! కమ్మ మహానాడు పిలుస్తోంది... కదలి రండు..!!
Website: www.kammaglobal.com. Email: kammaglobalfederation@gmail.com. Mobile No: 90555 17555

BIAL aims to complete 2nd phase of KIA's T2 by 2029

The completion of the second phase of Terminal 2 will add capacity by 20 million passengers per annum, making the combined capacity close to 80 million passengers a year

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU



The BIAL says the second phase of the Terminal 2, apart from being aesthetically appealing will be functionally efficient. FILE PHOTO

The Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL), operator of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), has set the target to complete the second phase of Terminal-2 by the end of 2029.

Girish Nair, chief operating officer, BIAL, said they are in the process of issuing the tender document, and the work would be awarded soon.

"Second phase of the Terminal-2 we are looking to complete by the end of 2029," Mr. Nair told *The Hindu*. He added that the second phase of the Terminal 2, apart from being aesthetically appealing will be functionally efficient.

"We will continue to strengthen on what we have already delivered. It (second phase) is going to be extremely aesthetically appealing and functionally efficient for both the passengers and the airlines. It is very critical how you get your turnarounds quicker, how you bring down the walking distance and so on," Mr. Nair said.

Mr. Nair added that the latest technologies and modern engineering will be incorporated which will make the airport and the terminal far superior. "Today, I think we are arguably in the finest airport and finest terminal. Terminal 2 is India's first terminal to receive the prestigious 5-Star Airport Terminal Rating from Skytrax. The second phase will be in that league," he added.

The completion of the second phase of Terminal 2 will add capacity by an additional 20 million passengers per annum. With its completion by the end of 2029, the combined capacity of the existing Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 will be approximately 80 million passengers per annum.

Mr. Nair laid out the timelines for the completion of critical infrastructure projects in the airport, like the elevated western crossfield taxiway and the refurbishment of the Terminal 1.

"All these projects will be completed by the end of 2027 or early 2028. The western cross-field taxiway will bring in a lot of efficiency on the airside and Terminal 1 refurbishment will lead to the growth of domestic carriers," he said.

The western crossfield taxiway project will increase airside capacity by connecting the South and North runways on the west side.

Highest 1-day footfall

Mr. Nair said that KIA, which is the third busiest airport in the country, recorded its highest-ever single-day footfall on January 24 with 1,39,11 passengers.

In 2025, the airport recorded its highest-ever single-day count of 1,37,317 passengers on November 23.

KSMSCL initiates priority procurement of 496 drugs to address shortage

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The procurement process of the drugs is expected to be completed by the end of March, paving the way for regular supplies. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

In a bid to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential medicines in government health institutions, the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMSCL) has initiated priority procurement of 496 drugs under the annual indent for 2025-26, amid reports of shortages.

According to the Health Department, of the 496 drugs, Notifications of Award have been issued for 99, while tenders for the remaining 397 drugs have been floated and are currently under evaluation. The procurement process for these drugs is expected to be completed by the end of March, paving the way for regular supplies.

Essential medicines

Drugs scheduled to be supplied during February and March include a large number of essential medicines critical for patient care. These include around 25 antibiotics, commonly used analgesics such as paracetamol and ibuprofen, and intravenous fluids, which form the backbone of treatment in government hospitals, stated the Health Department release.

To bridge supply gaps during the procurement process and to ensure continuity of care - particularly for emergency and life-saving medicines - KSMSCL has proposed an interim arrangement through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). A proposal has been submitted to the Pharma and Medical Bureau of India (PMBI) to supply generic medicines to government hospitals through authorised distributors, the release said.

GeM portal

To support this interim mechanism and avoid disruptions, it has been decided to allocate ₹50 crore from KSMSCL's existing funds to health facilities across the State. This amount will enable hospitals to procure medicines during the transition period until regular supplies resume.

In addition, government health institutions have been permitted to make direct purchases through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, wherever necessary, as a supplementary measure to address urgent requirements.

Officials said that steps have been taken to expedite procurement through policy relaxations. During 2025, around 49 drugs have already been procured and supplied by implementing facilitative measures such as 4G exemption, helping ease shortages in select categories.

Jyoti Nivas College wins best Women's Institution Award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Jyoti Nivas College has been conferred the Best Women's Institution Award in NCC for 2025-26 by the Karnataka and Goa Directorate, National Cadet Corps, recognising its excellence in cadet training and leadership development.

Operating under the 1 Karnataka Girls Battalion NCC and guided by Colonel Vinay Ahluwalia, the college's NCC unit has produced disciplined cadets, several of whom have joined the Indian Army as officers.

The award was presented on Wednesday, at the Directorate's annual felicitation ceremony in Bengaluru by Air Commodore S. B. Arun Kumar, VSM, Deputy Director General, NCC.

The honour was received by the institution's Principal Dr. Sr. Mary Louisa, Sr. Nathalia, administrators Sr. Sajitha, Sr. Sintea and Associate NCC Officer Capt. Dr. H. K. Roopa Rani.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, my client has agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri.HARISH B. NAIK** S/o late Babu Kharvi, residing at: No.204, Parvathi Nilayam, 12th Main Road, Manjunath Nagar, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru – 560 010.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Site No.585/95, Property No.9792962959, measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 30 ft, totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft., situated at Widia Nagar Town Ship, Arishinakunte, Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural District-562123 and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : Private Property
North by : Site No.96
South by : Site No.94

Sd/- S.F.Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru – 560 004

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2025-26/41 Dt: 31.01.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of work	Approx.Value
(I)Recoupment of ballast at TSS, SP/SSP and provision of cable trench covers (ii) Provision of eathing and bonds at SSP/SP, Foot Over Bridge and Platform shelters in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 76,89,998.26/-

Period of Completion : 10 Months

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 23.02.2026

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, Bengaluru
PUB/870/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Narayanaswamy S C** son of Mr. Chandrappa, residing at No.231, 7th Cross, Hosur Main Road, Singasandra, Bengaluru-560 068 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 13-04-2011, registered as document No.BMH-1-00363-2011-12, stored in CD No. BMHD 479, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Bommanahalli, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged **on 06-02-2026 vide Lost Report No.2048361/2026.** I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within 7 days and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of property bearing Old Khaneshumari No.7, as per BBMP 'A' Katha New Property No.34/34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 & 50, Property Sl.No.34, situated at **SINGASANDRA village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits, measuring: East to West: **32' feet** and North to South: **29' feet** in all measuring: **928 Sq.ft.** and bounded on the;

East by : Road; West by : Property belongs to C. Rajanna; North by : 6 feet Passage left on Northern side belongs to C. Rajanna; South by : 5 feet Passage and property belongs to Gopala Reddy;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, Meera Nivas, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020. Mobile : 9740718436

ICAR – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SEED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
REGIONAL STATION, GKVK campus, Bengaluru - 560 065

e-Tender Invitation Notice for Construction New Storeroom at ICAR-National Institute of Seed Science and Technology, Regional Station, Bangalore

ICAR-National Institute of Seed Science and Technology (NISST), Regional Station, Mau, has invited online applications from qualified and experienced bidders for construction of new store room at Bangalore. Digitally signed e-tenders are invited through https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app portal. Please go to https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and see Tender ID 2026_DARE_897318_1 for details. Tender documents are also available on our website https://seedicar.org.in/. However, it is clarified that online bids can only be submitted through: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app and offline bids will not be considered under any circumstances. For full details, visit https://eprecure.gov.in/eprocure/app and https://seedicar.org.in.

Sd/-, (Asst. Admin. Officer)

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E-29/2025-26/85 Dated : 28.01.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	1) Enhancement of LHB/ICF coach maintenance facilities at Mysuru. 2) Ashokapuram Construction of service rooms for C&W activities at Ashokapuram Station-Electrical arrangements.	Rs. 14,47,966.78/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 19.02.2026

E-Tender Notice No. Y/E-29/2025-26/86 Dated : 29.01.2026

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	(Re-Tender) AMC for Air Conditions over Mysuru Division for a period of 3 years	Rs. 29,22,739.44/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 20.02.2026

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/G/ Mysuru
PUB/864/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from **MR. DEEPAK CHOUDHARY,** S/o Mr. Karan Pal Singh Choudhary and his wife **MRS. MEENAL TALYAN,** residents of Bengaluru. Any person/s who has/have any right, claim or interest in the said property or any part thereof may notify to the undersigned along with proof of such claims/ objections to such sale within **7 days** from this day, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule property assuming that there are no claims, right or interest whatsoever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential Villa No.**79** in **"DEODAR"** type in **"PRESTIGE OZONE"** built on the Schedule B Property (Plot No.79, forming portion of Hagadur Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring EW: 60ft, NS: 40ft, totally measuring 2400 sqft) having Ground & First Floor having total built up area of 2245 sq. ft, (Old BBMP Khatha No. 796/D/3/78 Villa No. 79), E-Khatha PID No. 2159336885 assigned by Ward No.84 (Hagaduru) & bounded on the :

East by: Internal Layout Road in PRESTIGE OZONE,
West by: Villa No. 87 in "DEODAR" type of PRESTIGE OZONE,
North by: Villa No. 80 in "DEODAR" type of PRESTIGE OZONE and
South by: Villa No. 78 in "DEODAR" type of PRESTIGE OZONE

Harsha C. Mensinakai, Advocate
#126, 3rd E Cross, Kasturinagar, Blore-43
harshamensinakai@gmail.com
Mobile: 9880308930.

Bank of Baroda (A Government of India Undertaking)
Peenya II Stage Branch
#3/1/A, NH-4, Tumkur Road, Peenya II Stage, Bengaluru-560058

POSSESSION NOTICE
APPENDIX IV - Rule 8 (1) 13(4) (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Bank of Baroda, Peenya II Stage Branch, Bengaluru,** under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **18.11.2025** calling upon the **Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/ Mortgagors/ Guarantors, 1. Smt. Annapurna H Poojar** W/o Sri. Balaji. R, KGF Main Road, S. G Kote Post, Bangarpet, Kolar Dist-563114 and **also at:** C/o Dr. Sindhe Himsain Rao, H. No. 103, 6th Cross, 8th Main, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru. **2. Sri. Balaji. R** S/o Sri. Radhakrishnaiah Setty, KGF Main Road, S. G Kote Post Bangarpet, Kolar Dist-563114. and **also at:** Flat No. 304, L1 B1, Karnataka Housing Board, Surya Nagar 1st Phase, CHS Hosur Road, Chandapura, Bengaluru., to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.4,73,777.37 Paisa (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Seven and Paisa Thirty Seven Only)** as on **17.11.2025** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice, together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **05th February 2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

"We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender /private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available."

The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of Baroda for an amount **Rs.4,73,777.37 Paisa (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Seven and Paisa Thirty Seven Only)** as on **17.11.2025,** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.

Description of the Property

Schedule 'A' Property: All that piece and parcel of property/land in the layout formed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at Suryanagar Project, in land bearing various survey Nos of Iggaluru-Banahalli of Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring approximately 283 Acres and acquired under three notifications viz., KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/15/98:99 dated 14.1.1999, KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/13/98:99 dated 14.1.1999, and KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 2/90:91 dated 10.10.1990, measuring East to West 21.33 Meters and North to South 36 Meters, totally measuring 767.88 Square Meters and bounded on the: East by: Block No.2 LIG TYPE-1, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Road.

Schedule 'B' Property: The vendor having sold 1/(15 Flats + 1 shop) i.e., {(767.88 / 932.35) x 61.35} = 50.52 Square Meters undivided interest in all of the above property to the purchaser.

Schedule 'C' Property: All those premises being a Residential Apartment /Tenement bearing No 304 on the 3rd Floor of Block No 01, LIG TYPE-1, consisting of 15 Flats and 1 Shop, residential apartments/ in the Multistoried Building/Block constructed on the property described in Schedule 'A' Property hereto and bounded on the: East by: Flat No.301 L1 B2, West by: Flat No.301 L1 B1, North by: Flat No.303 L1 B1, South by: Open to Sky.

Date : 05.02.2026
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

Form no INC-26
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government Southern Region Bench, Chennai

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 13(4) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND RULE 30 (a) OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014 AND IN THE MATTER OF M/S UNIVERSAL ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED ("THE COMPANY") (CIN: U31909KA2008PTC046170) HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT 2133, Gokulam, 1st Floor 15th Main, HAL 3rd Stage Bangalore -560 008

.....PETITIONER

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting/ Extra ordinary general meeting held on 22-Jan-2026 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Karnataka to "State of Kerala. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

For and on behalf of the Applicant:
M/s UNIVERSAL ELECTRONIC SOLUTIONS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
Name of Director: Felix Simon (DIN: 02107853)
Address of registered office: NO 2133, Gokulam, 1st Floor 15th Main, HAL 3rd Stage Bangalore -560 008

Date : 23-01-2026
Place : Bangalore

HIMACHAL PRADESH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(Government of Himachal Pradesh)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
SELECTION OF O&M OPERATORS FOR PARKING FACILITIES IN SHIMLA ON PPP

1.HPIDB invites bids for the selection of Operators for Operation and Maintenance of Multi Level Parking Facilities developed under Shimla Smart City Ltd. for following 2 Clusters:
a.**Cluster I:** (Four) Parking Facilities at (i) Bangla Colony, Totu; (ii) Sankat Mochan Temple; (iii) Vikasnagar; and (iv) SDA Complex, Kasumpti.
b.**Cluster II:** (Three) Parking Facilities at (i) Aukland Tunnel; (ii) New OPD Block, IGMC; and (iii) Opposite IGMC Auditorium.
2.The bids are invited for the above 2 Clusters separately.
3.The RFP Documents shall be available from 6-Feb-2026 onwards at https://hptenders.gov.in. Applicants are requested to submit their proposals online as per the prescribed formats on or before **2-Mar-2026 by 5:00 PM.** A pre-bid meeting shall be organized for the same on **18-Feb-2026 at 11:00 AM** through online and physical mode at the office of HPIDB, Shimla.
4.HPIDB reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Chief General Manager, HPIDB
New Himrus Building, Circular Road, Himland, Shimla-171001,H.P, India
Phone No.:+91 177-2626696,2627312
Email: hpidb-hp@nic.in

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I
At Telephone House, 4th Floor, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru.

O.A. No. 399 / 2022

Between :
Punjab National Bank
A body Corporate constituted under The Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) No. 40 of 1970, Having its Corporate Office at Plot No. 4, Sector-10, Dwaraka, Newdelhi - 110075.
And Carrying business through its branches at various place including SASTRA West, Situated at # 100, Mosque Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005. PAN No. AAACP0165G, RTGS Inward A/c No. 12770025500021, IFSC No. ORBC0101277, Represented by its Senior Manager Sri. Nagaraja, Aged about 54 years, Mobile : 9113625931, E-Mail : cs8192@pnb.co.in.
... Applicant

And :
M/s. Sri. BHUVANESH ENGINEERING WORKS, Prop.: Sri. R.V. Krishnamurthy
... Defendant

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993.

To :
M/s. Sri Buvanesh Engineering Works, Prop.: Sri. R.V. Krishnamurthy,
Aged about 62 years, **Son of late Vellaiswamynadan**
Sterling Complex, Industrial Estate, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560010.
PAN No. EJRPK2929G, Mob.: 9845497623.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and recovery of sum of **Rs. 26,48,893.37 (Rupees Twenty Six Lakhs Fourty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Three and paise Thirty Seven Only)** together with Current and for other reliefs. The above mentioned defendant is therefore hereby directed to appear before the tribunal in person of through an Advocate or duly authorized Agent, in support of the defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on the Day of **24-07-2026 at 11.00 a.m.** as to why relief prayed for should not be granted. Take Notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **26th day of December, 2025.**

Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1
BANGALORE - 560001.

ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಎಎಫ್‌ಎಸ್, ಯಲಹಂಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - ೫೬೦೦೬೩
(ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಭಾರತ ಸರ್ಕಾರ)
पीएम श्री केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, एएफएस, यलहंका, बेंगलुरु: 560063
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, AFS, YELAHANKA, BENGALURU:560063
(An Autonomous Body, under Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Website:https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in **Mail:**kvafsyel63@gmail.com **Phone: 08029721121**

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-interview for the following post will be conducted at PM SHRI KV AFS Yelahanka on 11.02.2026 from 8.30 a.m. onwards to prepare a panel of Part Time / Contractual Teachers for the academic year 2026-27 on purely contractual basis. REGISTRATION TIME:- 08.30 am to 10.00 am

Date	Post(s)
11.02.2026	**1. PGT -** English, Hindi, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Computer Science, Economics, History, Geography. **2. TGT** - English, Hindi, Science, Maths, Sanskrit and Social Science. **3. Primary & Balvatika Teacher** **Other post -** Computer Instructor, Yoga coach, Sports Coach, Music Coach, Art & Craft Coach, Special Educator, Kannada teacher, Staff Nurse, Counsellor, ATL Lab Instructor.
Note:	**1.** Candidates to report along with duly filled application form, original certificates of qualification, one set of self-attested copy of Certificates & two passport size photographs for registration. **2.** No TA/DA will be provided for interview. **3.** To download application form, eligibility criteria, minimum qualification etc. Please visit the website https://afsyelahanka.kvs.ac.in

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Centre for Cultural Resources and Training
(Under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
15-A, Sector-07, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110075

Advt.No.: CCRT/11011/07/2025/03

Subject: Filling up of 01 (One) post of Deputy Director (Production) at CCRT - Regarding.

Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the post of **Dy. Director (Production)** in the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi by **Composite Method: Deputation (including short-term contract) plus promotion; failing which by Direct Recruitment basis** as per the Recruitment Rules of CCRT in the Pay level-11 (Rs. 67,700-2,08,700) as per 7th CPC. The vacancy details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Pay Level & Scale	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Dy. Director (Production)	01(One)	Pay level-11 (Rs. 67,700-2,08,700) as per 7th CPC	Composite Method: Deputation (including short-term contract) plus promotion; failing which by Direct Recruitment

The detailed advertisement and prescribed Application format, Terms & Conditions are available on CCRT website **https://ccrtindia.gov.in.** Interested/eligible candidate may submit the application in the prescribed format along with all the relevant documents to **Director, CCRT, 15-A, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi THROUGH PROPER CHANNEL and** scanned copies of the same may be sent to the Email: dir.ccrt@nic.in as an advance copy.

The last date for receipt of duly filled in Application form is **30 (Thirty) Days** from the date of publication of Advertisement in Employment News. The closing date of the week in which the advertisement is published in the Employment News shall apply.

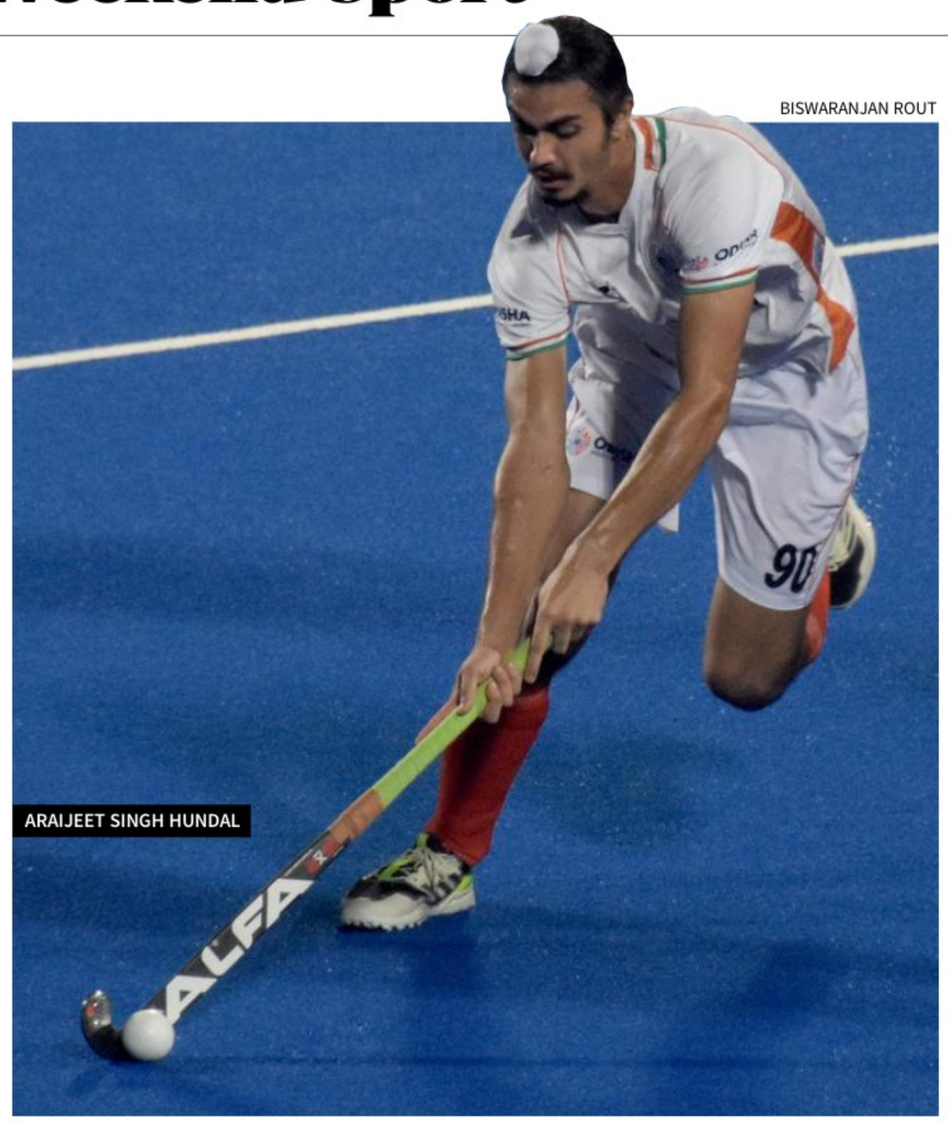
Director
CCRT, New Delhi

cbc 09127/12/0010/2526

R. RAGU

PRINCEDEEP SINGH

BISWARANJAN ROUT



ARAIJEET SINGH HUNDAL

Change of phase: opportunity knocks for India's young hockey talent

The men's team needs an injection of fresh blood in the run-up to the 2028 Olympics. The packed calendar in 2026 may prove a blessing in disguise — head coach Craig Fulton can use it as a base to experiment, giving lesser-known faces exposure, and trigger a smooth transition

Y.B. Sarangi

Notwithstanding the absence of hockey in the upcoming Glasgow Commonwealth Games programme, 2026, studded with the World Cup and the Asian Games, presents a packed calendar to the Indian men's hockey team.

The challenge extends beyond the current year: several experienced players, who were a part of the bronze-winning Paris 2024 team, may not be at peak form and fitness during Los Angeles 2028.

Infusion of youth

Such a situation warrants the infusion of younger talent into the side so that they can get into the groove in time to perform the elite India duty well. Considering that, 2026 will serve as the base year during which head coach Craig Fulton can experiment and trigger a transition before entering serious preparatory mode a year before the 2028 Olympics.

With the twin challenges of facing a busy calendar and effecting a smooth change, Fulton trained his eyes on the recently concluded Hockey India League (HIL) in Chennai, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar to spot as many up-and-coming players as he could.

The effort was reflected in the Indian squad of 33 core probables for the home leg of the FIH Pro League scheduled in Rourkela from February 10. Several younger players, who either have not made their debut or have played only a few top-level matches, found their places.

> Hundels [Araijeet Singh Hundal], post his injury, is coming back to some kind of form, which is nice. I also like [Anmol] Ekka. He has really shown he can fill a role
>
> **CRAIG FULTON**
> India head coach

Looking forward to rotating young and experienced players as he builds the team for LA28, Fulton offered his views on the youngsters who caught his attention in the HIL.

"Arshdeep [Singh]'s coming good. Hundels [Araijeet Singh Hundal], post his injury from under-21s, is coming back to some kind of form, which is nice. You have got a lot of guys playing smaller roles within a big team, but they're still doing their role well," said Fulton.

"I also like [Anmol] Ekka. He has come good. In this tournament, he has really shown he can fill a role. And [Amandeep] Lakra as well. He was playing behind [Gonzalo] Peillat last season in terms of flicking. Now he has got the full responsibility to flick. He has done a good job and he has put it on target. They've got rebounds, he has scored goals."

Hyderabad Toofans' 21-year-old Amritsar boy Arshdeep, a member of the bronze-winning Indian team at the Junior World Cup in Tamil Nadu, has the skill-set typically found in crafty Indian and Pakistani players of yesteryear. He is a sharp operator inside the circle. "Give him some space, he will take advantage of that. He uses the backhand well and is quick. You can't plan for such a player," said former India coach Harendra Singh, who guided Ranchi Royals to the HIL final.

AMANDEEP LAKRA

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Royals forward Hundal, a strapping 22-year-old, has donned India colours. Another player from Amritsar district, he recovered from a shoulder injury, which prevented him from playing in the Junior World Cup last year, to make his mark with spectacular goals off powerful shots. He is also known for his drag-flick skills.

Two youngsters from Sundargarh's tribal belt sparkled as well.

Twenty-year-old defender Ekka, a product of the Bhubaneswar-based Odisha Naval Tata Hockey High Performance Centre, caught everyone's attention in the HIL. His composed, proactive performance gave the Royals backline assurance.

Classic defender

"Anmol is a classic defender with one-on-one tackling skills. He gelled well with the European players and posed a threat to the foreign [forwards]. But his drag-flick is underused. He is good at distribution and has an excellent aerial ball. Like Harmanpreet, he looks cool while defending," said Harendra.

Lakra, an effortless drag-flicker, proved to be a great asset for Toofans. Having spent time in Peillat's shadow in the HIL's previous edition, he got a bigger role this time, as the German withdrew due to an injury. He grabbed the opportunity. With nine goals, the uncapped Indian was fourth on the list of leading goal-scorers, featuring several overseas stars. A focused and cool defender, the 23-year-old was rightly named the 'Player of the tournament'.

> Amandeep [Lakra] thrived because of his coach's trust, executed the plans well. He shoots well between the goalkeeper and the post-man, and it is difficult to stop
>
> **HARENDRA SINGH**
> Former India coach

Toofans coach Pasha Gademan was delighted with Lakra's success. "He knows really well what he can do. We worked on his technique in the beginning a little bit. Maybe he benefited from it. After a while, he was very conscious about it, and was calm. He knew what he wanted to do.

"The ball comes very low on the stick with him. A lot of decisions come from collaboration. But also many times, he made the decision of where to flick it right."

Gademan also underlined Lakra's role as a defender. "Last year, Amandeep got three to four minutes per quarter to play. This year, we just played him for 60 minutes and he got his performance right."

Harendra added, "Amandeep thrived because of his coach's trust, executed the plans well. He shoots well between the goalkeeper and the post-man, and it is difficult to stop."

Twenty-one-year-old Manipuri defender Talem Priyobrata Singh, who was chosen the 'Up-and-coming player of the tournament', made an impression with his fearless and level-headed performance.

Although Arshdeep, Ekka and Talem narrowly missed the cut for the 33 core probables, they are future prospects Fulton will be closely monitoring.

Among those included were linkmen Rajinder Singh, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem and Manmeet Singh and forwards Angad Bir Singh, Aditya Lalage and Maninder Singh, all of whom made their presence felt at the HIL.

In the post-P.R. Sreejesh era, with India's first choice custodian Krishan Pathak 'rested' for the FIH Pro League, Princedeep Singh, who was adjudged 'Goalkeeper of the tournament', and H.S. Mohith shone at the HIL to make it to the National camp.

While all the bright boys are unlikely to make it to the Indian side, they will get their shot in due course. Since Fulton lays importance on both the World Cup (August 14-30), a quadrennial showpiece event, and the Asian Games (September 19-October 4), a qualifying competition for LA28, he is not in favour of fielding two different teams in these elite competitions.

But the head coach does not mind rotating the experienced and the youth to keep a big bunch of players ready for any eventuality. He may give some of the newer faces exposure in events of lesser importance.

'Crazy' schedule

"We have an India-A squad that's functioning. A lot of the under-21 players would go into that. Then you have a tour to New Zealand and the Asian Champions Trophy [ACT] towards the end [of the year]. It's crazy to have the World Cup, the Asian Games, the ACT all [within a short period]," said Fulton.

Nevertheless, a challenging schedule may prove a blessing in disguise, as it will provide the promising lot plenty of opportunities to rise to the occasion during a crucial changeover phase in the run-up to the 2028 Olympics.

GAME THEORY

Queens of the 2020s

At the 2026 Australian Open, Elena Rybakina won her second Grand Slam title of the 2020s (and her career) while Aryna Sabalenka lost the fourth of her eight Major final appearances this decade. We look at the women's singles players with the most Major triumphs in the 2020s and their share of titles in the 24 Grand Slam events that have been held so far this decade (2020 Wimbledon was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic).

IGA SWIATEK

WOMEN'S SINGLES CHAMPIONS: GRAND SLAM EVENTS IN THE 2020s

Player	Major titles	Major finals	% of the decade's Majors won
Iga Swiatek	6	6	25.00%
Aryna Sabalenka	4	8	16.67%
Naomi Osaka	2	2	8.33%
Ashleigh Barty	2	2	8.33%
Barbora Krejcikova	2	2	8.33%
Coco Gauff	2	3	8.33%
Elena Rybakina	2	3	8.33%
Sofia Kenin	1	2	4.17%
Emma Raducanu	1	1	4.17%
Marketa Vondrousova	1	1	4.17%
Madison Keys	1	1	4.17%

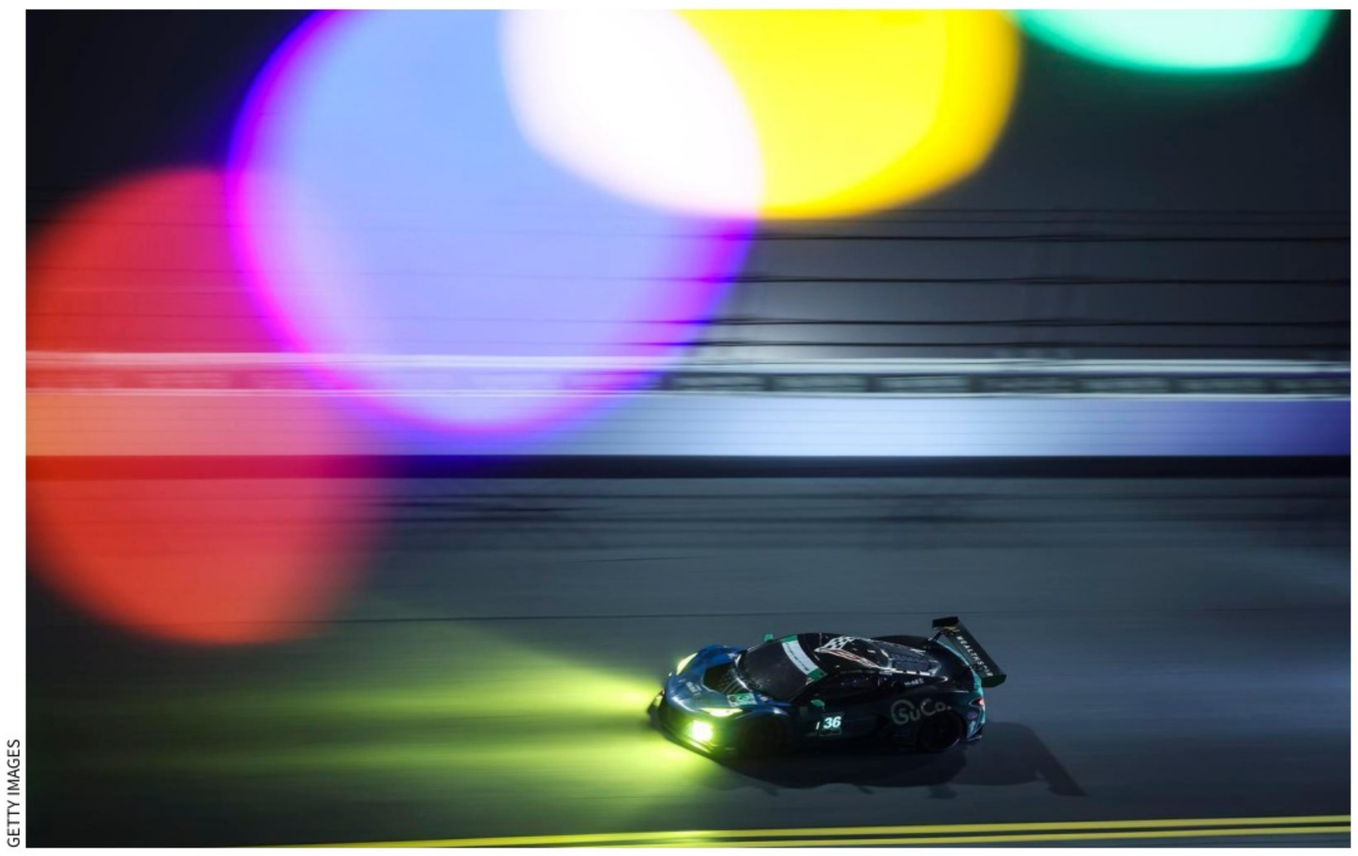
ARYNA SABALENKA

ELENA RYBAKINA

COCO GAUFF

SOURCE: WTA TOUR

PICTURE THIS



GETTY IMAGES

Driving all day

The 24 Hours of Daytona is an endurance race held in the last weekend of January or the first weekend of February, making it the first major automobile race of the year in North America.

Known as the Rolex 24 at Daytona for sponsorship reasons, the annual event is run at Florida's Daytona International Speedway, on a 5.73-km combined layout that uses most of the circuit's tri-oval and an infield road course.

So, unlike the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Daytona race is conducted entirely over a closed course within the speedway arena, without the use of any public streets.

Considered the pinnacle of sports car racing in North America — it attracts top manufacturers, teams and drivers — Daytona is a part of the informal endurance Triple Crown, along with Le Mans and the 12 Hours of Sebring.

Endurance racing tests the durability of equipment and the stamina of participants. Having to drive an entire day pushes drivers, mechanics, marshals and even fans physically and psychologically. Porsche has the most overall victories of any manufacturer at Daytona (23).

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Namma Metro fare revision sparks political slugfest

A zone-wise revision with fares rising by ₹1 to ₹5 across 10 zones will come into effect from Feb. 9

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A political slugfest has erupted following the decision by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) to revise Namma Metro fares, with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress trading charges over responsibility for the increase. With civic polls set to be held in the city this year, the two national parties have been trying to blame each other for the fare hike.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah says neither the State government nor BMRCL has the authority to override the Fare Fixation Committee constituted by the Union government. FILE PHOTO

'Political deception'

Even as the BJP attacked the State government over the fare hike, in a detailed statement on Friday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sought to counter what he termed "political deception" by laying out the legal framework governing fare fixation. Under the Metro Railways (Operation & Maintenance) Act, 2002, he said, metro fares are not determined by the State government but by an independent Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) constituted solely by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. The committee, headed by a former High Court judge and operating under Central legislation, is required to submit its recommendations within a stipulated period, and these recommendations are binding on the metro administration.

> To blame the Karnataka government for a decision legally imposed by the Union framework is factually incorrect and deliberately misleading
> **SIDDARAMAIAH**
> Chief Minister

Neither the State government nor BMRCL, he stressed, has the authority to override them. "To blame the Karnataka government for a decision legally imposed by the Union framework is factually incorrect and deliberately misleading," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, while adding that the State would go beyond the narrow confines of the law to protect commuters' interests.

He announced that he would formally take up the issue with the Union government, urging it to reconsider the recommended fare levels, explore mechanisms to moderate or rationalise fares for daily users and vulnerable groups, and examine policy options that balance financial sustainability with social equity.

Reconstitute FFC

P.C. Mohan, MP for Bengaluru Central, said "the latest fare hike comes after a steep 71% increase last year" and alleged that "faulty calculations" by the FFC had inflated operating costs, resulting in sharp fare increases for most commuters.

Tejasvi Surya, MP for Bengaluru South, alleged that the State government had allowed a "steep and flawed" fare hike to go through, placing an additional burden on commuters. "If the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are really concerned about the rising fares of Bengaluru metro, I urge them to seek the reconstitution of the FFC. The Congress-led State government has perfected the art of blame-shifting, while conveniently ignoring that it has the authority and responsibility to reduce the burden on the city's commuters," he claimed. Mr. Surya had earlier sought a reconstitution of the FFC.

'Raise in Parliament'

Mr. Siddaramaiah questioned "why BJP MPs from the State had not raised the issue forcefully in Parliament or opposed high fare slabs at the Union level".

'We're planning to keep particulate matter emissions below 20'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), said on Friday that the city plans to promote green buildings, rein in construction-related pollution, and keep particulate matter (PM) emissions below 20.

"Bengaluru is already the third-largest city in the country in terms of green buildings, but we should further incentivise sustainable construction," he said at the Green Karnataka Summit 2026.

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of GBA, at a programme organised at the Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reducing PM levels

Mr. Rao noted that a key focus of the city's climate action plan is reducing PM levels, much of which is linked to construction dust and debris. He emphasised that while Bengaluru fares better than several North Indian cities in terms of PM levels, the goal is to keep PM levels below 20. "Currently, the city's PM emissions fluctuate. At times it is around 25 and can rise to as high as 75 during the summer," he said.

Circular economy

Mr. Rao pointed out that green buildings have increasingly become more affordable over the years and remain aspirational, but there is a need to actively push circular economy principles. "We need to think about how one industry's waste or by-product can be used by another. Such innovations deserve greater visibility and support," he said. He suggested that industry bodies such as the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) could create challenge funds or accelerators to showcase the best ideas.

Incentives

The GBA Chief Commissioner indicated that the government is exploring incentives through building bylaws, zoning regulations, and possible awards for individuals, institutions, and companies that lead on sustainability.

Mr. Rao proposed working with IGBC to develop a city-level green rating system aligned with Bengaluru's climate targets as per the Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Rao urged builders to think beyond green outcomes and employ green construction processes as well, highlighting debris management as a growing concern amid rapid construction.

Music festival: Carnatic vocal concert today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The third day of the 17th Indian Classical Music Festival, organised by Bharatiya Samagana Sabha, will take place on Saturday at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval, Malleswaram, from 5 p.m.

The evening will begin with an award ceremony where Ganesh Kumaresh will receive the *Samagana Mathanga Award*, and Spoorthi Rao will be honoured with the *Samagana Vasantha Award*.

This will be followed by a Carnatic vocal concert by Harisankar K.S., accompanied by Keshav M. on violin, Nagendra Prasad Subbu on mridangam, Sunaad Anoor on khanjira and Gopi Shravanam on morching.

M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner of GBA, at the Open House meet at Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall in Bengaluru on Friday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

GBA to revive 194 unused public spaces across Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of the 194 locations identified, 43 locations are in Central Corporation, 49 in North, 21 in East, 31 in West, and 50 in South

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao on Friday called on citizens to actively participate in reviving unused public spaces across the city, stressing that a more livable Bengaluru can be built only through collective cooperation between the government and the public.

Speaking during the Open House meet at Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall, Mr. Rao encouraged citizen involvement in the revitalisation of public spaces within GBA limits.

Based on initiatives and public surveys undertaken, the GBA found 194 locations feasible to revitalise, and a phased implementation plan has been prepared across the five city corporations. Of these, 43 locations are in Central Corporation, 49 in North, 21 in East, 31 in West, and 50 in South.

The GBA Chief said that there is a need to replicate such measures - where public spaces can be used effectively -- across all city corporation areas, requesting citizens to reduce dependence on private vehicles and adopt public transport. While developing local public spaces, he said, safety must be a priority, particularly for women, and environments should be created where women can move freely and safely even during night hours.

Mr. Rao directed officials to organise similar programmes in all five city corporations to gather suggestions from citizens, startups and institutions. He said unused public spaces should be converted into safe, citizen-friendly community areas by facilitating corporate CSR partnerships and pilot urban development projects. Public participation, he added, is key to building a better and more inclusive city.

EDUCATION HUB

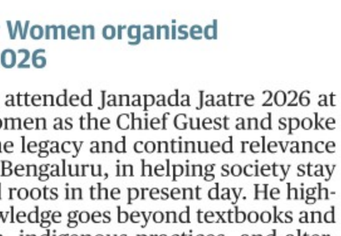
A Business Initiative

B.M.S. College for Women organised Janapada Jaatre 2026

Prof. Krishna Gowda attended Janapada Jaatre 2026 at B.M.S. College for Women as the Chief Guest and spoke passionately about the legacy and continued relevance of Janapada Jaatre in Bengaluru, in helping society stay connected to cultural roots in the present day. He highlighted that true knowledge goes beyond textbooks and includes folk wisdom, indigenous practices, and alternative forms of learning. Janapada Jaatre, organized by the college for the past ten years, was held recently under the theme "Janapada Aashayagala Hudukaata." The event featured an innovative drone-led banner unveiling, a grand folk procession with nearly 2,000 students, and vibrant performances such as Karaga, Yakshagana, Lambani Nritya, Kansale, Suggi Kunita, and Kolata across Basavanagudi and Gandhi Bazaar. Presided over by Dr. B. S. Ragini Narayan, the programme included traditional rituals, cultural performances, folk music by Kambada Rangaiah, student-run stalls, traditional games, and participation from students, faculty, alumnae, and staff. The celebration successfully reinforced awareness of Karnataka's folk traditions and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous culture among the youth.

Christ Junior College celebrates College Day

Christ Junior College celebrated its Ethnic Day and College Day 2026 on January 29 with grandeur, embracing India's rich cultural diversity through the theme "Dhaaga: Melody of Weaves." The event began with formal rituals, including an invocation and lamp lighting, followed by inspiring addresses from the chief guest Sri. Yogaraj R Bhat and college authorities Rev. Fr. Varghese Vithayathil, chancellor, Christ (Deemed to be University), Rev. Dr. Fr. Sebastian Mathai, principal, Christ Junior College and Ms. Minu Mary Mathew, co-ordinator, Student Welfare Office, who highlighted self-belief, unity, and collective aspirations. The Annual Report for 2025-26 showcased the institution's academic achievements, while speakers emphasized the theme as a symbol of shared heritage and excellence. The proceedings commenced with a greeting to the dignitaries, followed by an invocation and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The celebrations concluded with felicitations and vibrant student cultural performances in music, dance, and theatre, with students and faculty in traditional attire reflecting the college's commitment to inclusivity and cultural preservation.

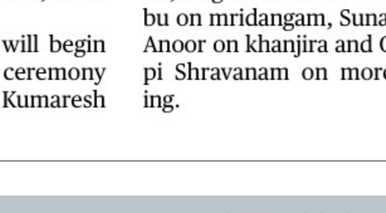


Second Graduation Day of Nitte College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bengaluru

Dr. Bhagavan B.C., VC of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, highlighted the pharmaceutical sector as a vital pillar of public health, emphasizing prevention alongside treatment. Speaking at the Second Graduation Day of Nitte College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Bengaluru, he underscored the sector's role in disease eradication, HIV/AIDS management, and the COVID-19 response. He praised the multidisciplinary training of pharmacy graduates and noted RGUHS's unique Student Research Fund initiative, which has encouraged strong student research output. At the ceremony, 63 students received BPharm degrees, most with distinction, and Lavanya won the Gold Medal for securing the highest university marks. Guest of Honor Dr. Krathish Bopanna spoke about India's rise as a global pharmaceutical powerhouse, projecting industry growth to USD 130 billion by 2030. Dr. M.S. Moodithaya, VC of Nitte University, urged graduates to embrace modern technologies, especially artificial intelligence, in research and development. The event was attended by academic leaders, parents, and institutional heads, with welcome and closing addresses by Dr. V. Kusum Devi and Prof. Veda B. Hacholli respectively.

Presidency University School of Design Hosts 'FLUX – Experiential Week 2026'

Presidency University's School of Design hosted FLUX – Experiential Week 2026, a four-day exhibition showcasing student work across Fashion, Product, Space, Communication, and Game Design. Held on the university campus, the event highlighted hands-on learning through curated installations, material exploration, and interactive workshops. Inaugurated by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vidya Shankar Shetty, FLUX reinforced the school's focus on experiential, practice-based design education and creative engagement beyond the classroom. FLUX continues to be a key platform for the Presidency School of Design, emphasising learning as an ongoing journey. The event reflects the school's commitment to practical, reflective, and experience-based education.



CHRIST (Deemed to be University) NCC Wins Best Institution Award for the Eighth Consecutive Year

CHRIST (Deemed to be University)'s National Cadet Corps (NCC) has earned the Best Institution Award for the eighth consecutive year under the Karnataka and Goa NCC Directorate, reflecting a deep-rooted culture of discipline, service, and excellence. Established in 1969, the NCC unit has trained generations of cadets, producing over 100 officers for the Indian Armed Forces and mentoring more than 200 cadets annually. During the 2025-26 training year, cadets achieved national-level recognition through participation in prestigious camps, medal wins, and high-altitude expeditions, while also leading 19 social outreach initiatives focused on community welfare. Guided by strong mentorship by Associate NCC Officer Capt. Sajina B, who received the Defence Secretary Commendation Card in 2025 and institutional support, the CHRIST NCC emphasizes character, leadership, and nation-building as everyday practices, sustaining a legacy that goes beyond awards and continues to inspire committed service.

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I, MONA Metalda Mohan, d/o; Eric Hussey, r/o: GNO 5, Nandeshwar Colony, 2nd Cross, Doddagubbi Main Road, Kyasanahalli, Kothanur Post, Blr – 560077. Have changed my name as Mona Mohan
I, MUSTHAREE Begum, R/a No.59, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, Shakambarinagar, J P Nagar, Bangalore-560078 have changed my name to Ayesha Siddique vide affidavit dt: 02.02.2026 sworn before Notary G.Dayananda, B'lore
I, KAMALA K, Mother of Arun Lal Prasad K, R/o quarter No.133/8, Red Quarters, Command Hospital Airforce, Cambridge Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560007 have changed my name from Kamala K to Kamala Karunakaran vide affidavit dt: 04.02.2026 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, HARKESH, resident of SNCO Mess, Command Hospital Air Force, Bengaluru–560007 have changed my name from Harkesh to Harkesh Khairwal vide affidavit dated 29.01.2026 at Benagluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE
In the court of the family court, Tiruchirappalli. Tamilnadu
HMOP No:335/2025
1) Petitioner / Wife:
P. Abarna D/o. Pandiyan, W/o. Rohith Kumar, Hindu aged 24 years residing at U-1, KK Nagar, Palani Nagar, Police Quartress, VTC, Thiruchirappalli-620 021.
Vs
2) Respondent / Husband:
Rohith Kumar S/o. Udhayakumar, residing at No.19, OM Sakthi Nilaya, SRS Layout, Kereguddadahalli, Chikkabanavar (P.O), Bangalore, Karnataka.
Notice to the Respondent
The above said HMOP No.335/2025 (Divorce application) was filed against you for divorce. The above said petition posted on 16.03.2026. Hence as the respondent you must appear on the same date at 10.30am before this Honourable court, failing which an exparte order will be passed as against you by this Honourable court.
C.Dharmaraj, M.Com.,BL
Advocate
Thiruchirappalli, Dist, Tamilnadu
Cell: 9842274852

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XV ADDL DISTRICT JUDGE, R.R. DISTRICT : AT : IBRAHIMPATNAM
I.A.NO. 170 OF 2024
IN
O.S.NO. 1113 OF 2024
(Old O.S.No. 489 OF 2006)
Between:
C. Krishnamachary ...Petitioner/Plaintiff
And
M/s.G.P.R. Housing Private Ltd., & others ...Respondents/Defendants/
...Prop Def.No.32 to 45
To,
1. Rajeev Modali, S/o.M. Bhaskar Rao ...Prop Def.No.37
2. Smt. Deepa Modali, W/o.Rajeev Modali ...Prop Def.No.38
Both are R/o.Flat No.201, Dew Drop Residency, Panduranga Nagar, Bilekahalli Lane, Opposite to IIM, Bhannerghatta, BANGALORE, Karnataka-560076
Please take notice that the Petitioner/Plaintiff had filed an application under order 1 rule 10 of C.P.C to implead you and others in the above suit seeking specific performance of agreement of sale as defendants 37 and 38 in respect of suit schedule property therein and the matter stands posted on 25-02-2026 for your appearance. Please make it convenient to appear either in person or through duly instructed agent on the said date at 10.30 A.M. before the Hon'ble Court, as otherwise, the Hon'ble Court will proceed with the matter as per the Law.
// BY ORDER OF THE COURT //
S.Srinivasa Rao, Advocate,
HIG, B-6, F-4, Baghlingampally, Hyderabad. Cell: 98480-80646

Private sleeper bus catches fire on city outskirts; all passengers and crew safe

Police say the bus crashed into an electricity pole near Hanumanthapura around 12.15 a.m.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Kalaburagi-bound private non-AC sleeper bus went up in flames after an accident near Nelamangala post-midnight on Thursday, police said. All passengers and the crew are safe.

The incident occurred near Hanumanthapura Gate, located between Nelamangala and Dobbspet on NH-48. The bus left Bengaluru around 11 p.m. on Thursday and was ferrying close to 30 passengers.

According to police sources, the bus crashed into an electricity pole after allegedly veering to the left and climbing onto a drain near Hanumanthapura around 12.50 a.m., following which all the passengers were evacuated. About an hour later, a fire broke out in the bus, damaging the vehicle completely, they said.

The incident occurred near Hanumanthapura Gate, located between Nelamangala and Dobbspet on NH-48.

A police officer said the bus had been leaning against the electric pole, which may have caused a high-tension wire to come into contact with the vehicle. However, the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. "Even before the fire broke out, all the passengers were evacuated, so there were no casualties. However, all the luggage was gutted," the officer said, adding that it was fortunate no one attempted to get their bags, as they could have been electrocuted.

Fire department sources said the fire was brought under control within two hours.

The passengers alleged that the driver was drunk and lost control of the bus. Both the driver and the conductor are currently absconding. The Tyamagondlu police have registered a fire accident report.

12 makeshift sheds gutted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

At least 12 makeshift sheds of daily wage workers in Parappana Agrahara in southeastern Bengaluru were damaged in an accidental fire on Friday morning, police said. No casualties were reported. The settlement had about 55 sheds, of which 12 were completely gutted.

"The labourers had lit a campfire to ward off the cold at night. In the early hours, the flames spread due to strong winds," an officer said.

Grand Flea Market
Presents
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava®
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Date: 6th February 2026
to 15th February 2026
Timing: 10:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Venue:
SHUBH CONVENTION CENTRE
(SHUBH ROYALE)
#46, 6TH MAIN, PUTTENAHALLI, KOTHANUR DINNE
MAIN ROAD, OPP TO BRIGADE MILLENNIUM, 7TH
PHASE, J P NAGAR, BENGALURU - 78
Contact: 8073505441 / 6364685716
10 Days
Exhibition
Entry Free
60+ Shopping Stalls | 30+ Craftsman | Entry & Parking Free

Augmenting Rail Connectivity
for the People of Karnataka
Making Indian Railways safe, convenient and modern
is one of the top priorities of our government.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
Flagging Off of
Train No. 07371 New DEMU Train Service
between Dandeli - Alnavar
Benefits
Enhanced connectivity
between Dandeli and Alnavar
Fulfills long pending demand
of local people
Augmented accessibility to various
services like health care and tourism
for the people around Dandeli region
Boost to Social and economic
development of Dandeli and
Alnavar
By
V. Somanna
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti
Dandeli Railway Station
07.02.2026
04:00 PM
You are cordially invited
South Western Railway
In Service of the Nation
https://swr.indianrailways.gov.in | South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways
PUB/878/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

AI ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
TOOLS & AUTOMATIONS PROGRAM
IN NAMMA BENGALURU
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LEARN TO BUILD WITH AI
Websites & Web Apps | AI Receptionists | Assistants
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WITHOUT ANY CODING KNOWLEDGE | IT SKILLS
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AI. ATTEND FREE DEMO
ATTEND ONE FREE 2-HOUR INTRO WORKSHOP
SAT: 7th FEB: 10:25 AM | 2:15 PM | 6:20 PM
SUN: 8th FEB: 10:25 AM | 2:15 PM | 6:20 PM
HOTEL PARAAG, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD, BENGALURU
LIMITED 60 SEATS | PRE-REGISTRATION MANDATORY
Call to register: 9403893162 | bootcampsindia.com
SCAN TO REGISTER

Sabar Bonda is best Indian Film; *Vanya* is best Kannada movie

We need to protect democracy through art, because art has the capacity and responsibility to do it, says music composer Hamsalekha, who was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award

BIFFES 2026

Sindhu Nagaraj
BENGALURU

KCA chairman Sadhu Kokila and actor Prakash Raj presenting the Lifetime Achievement Award to music composer and lyricist Hamsalekha at the closing ceremony of BIFFeS in Bengaluru on Friday.
ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Sabar Bonda, a Marathi film, written and directed by Rohan Parashuram Kanawade, which follows a man from the city who returns to his home town following a death in the family, and reconnects romantically with his childhood friend Balya, won the best Indian Film honour at the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) that ended on Friday. Badiger Devendra's *Vanya* won the best film in the Kannada segment.

Music composer and lyricist Hamsalekha was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Speaking on the occasion, Hamsalekha said even though the film festival has come to an end, there is no end to art itself. "Art is the beginning and not an end. Cinema is a collective art form. I am very happy to receive the award today. These film festivals are a testament to the growth of cinema every day. Films like KGF and Kanthara have propelled Kannada films onto the global stage," he said.

We need to protect democracy through art, because art has the capacity and responsibility to do it, Mr. Hamsalekha added.

Malayalam film *Moham*, directed by Fazir Razak, won second place in the best Indian film category, and Malayalam film *Kaadu*, directed by Suneesh Vadakumbadan, was adjudged third in the segment. Other winners include *Lost Land Harawatan* (Japanese), *Shape of Momo* (Nepali), and *The Deepest Space in Us* (Japanese) in the Asian cinema competition. *The Republic of Pipolipinas* (The Philippines) won a special jury mention and Marathi film *Gondhal* won the FIPRESCI Award.

Badiger Devendra's *Vanya*, which premiered at the 56th International Film Festival in Goa, won the best Kannada film. The film portrays a father and daughter's emotional fight to protect their forest homeland from the corporate mafia, oppression, and political exploitation. Kannada films *Nam Saali*, directed by Anil Revoor and produced by senior theatre artist Shankarayya R. *Ghanti* and *Ravana Rajyadalli Navadampatigalu*, directed by Ranga, won second and third places respectively.

'Cinema is a language'

Actor and director Prakash Raj, brand ambassador of the festival, said, all the languages in the world are bound by emotions because the heart of every language is its emotion. "Cinema is also a language, and we celebrate every emotion through cinema. We need these film festivals to provide a platform for people to come with different stories from different parts of the world. We need cinema to bring about issues that are contemporary to the society," he said.

Festival director P.B. Murali said the eight-day film festival witnessed a footfall of over one lakh people.

"We had 30-plus restored classics, 40-plus Asian films and created a community viewing experience this year," he said.

Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao, speaking on the occasion, said every film should be released without censorship. "There should be freedom of expression in art. Kannada films should be also open and talk about every issue," he said.

The film festival, which began on January 29, saw around 300 films from 70 countries. This year's theme, *Stree Yendare Ashte Sake* (Is it enough to be a woman?) revolves around women's empowerment.

VTU makes prototype projects mandatory for engineering students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has announced that all engineering students under its jurisdiction will have to henceforth develop a prototype project, either machinery or services. A separate app will be developed to monitor these projects, said Prof. S. Vidya Shankar, Vice-Chancellor, VTU.

Speaking at a press conference in the city on Friday, he said students have to step out, identify the problems in various fields, analyse them, and find a solution by the end of their first semester. For this, VTU will award one credit to students. "This will provide students with necessary skill training and real-time work experience and make them employable. VTU will include skill programmes, prototyping, idea developing, and design thinking in the first semester itself, to make students entrepreneurs, instead of job seekers," he said, adding, "A separate app will be developed to monitor these projects, and students will have to upload the prototypes they have developed on this app. These will be examined and given credit points".

VTU has already provided training to 2,000 students in collaboration with ERA Foundation in this regard, he said, adding that a demonstration of the prototypes developed by these students will be organised at all VTU centers on February 28.

ASI training

VTU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chiac ASI, a United Kingdom-based company, said to be one of the first Super Intelligence firms, to train engineers in Artificial Super Intelligence (ASI), a future technology.

"ASI is poised to create a revolution by 2030, while controlling the ever-expanding AI. By adopting this, VTU students will be introduced to future technology. In addition, Chiac ASI will provide free internships to more than thousand students and ASI textbooks to engineering college lecturers for effective teaching. These are not ordinary books but are self-updating research textbooks that evolve as research develops. Workshops have also been conducted for lecturers in VTU-affiliated colleges on this technology," he added.

Power supply disruption today, tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents and industries in parts of Bengaluru will experience a scheduled power outage on February 7 and 8 as the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) undertakes essential infrastructure upgrades.

According to Bescom, power supply will remain suspended from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days.

Affected locations include Yadavanahalli, Ichanguru, Vaddarapalya, Attibele Industrial Area, Balagaranahalli, Manchanahalli, Attibele Town, Mayasandra, Dasanapura, Balluru, Kamblipura, Chikkanahalli, Indlabele, Harohalli and surrounding areas, Anekal Town, Kavalu Hosahalli, Gowrenahalli, Haldenahalli, Hompalagatta, Choodenahalli, Honnakalashapura, Karpuru, Byagadenahalli, Kada Agrahara, Chikkahagade, Doddahagade, nearby localities, Samanduru, Rachamanahalli, Guddanahalli, Aravantigepura, P. Gollahalli, Telagarahalli, Vanakanahalli, feeders F-05, F-07, F-08 and F-15 will be shut down, affecting Old Chandapura, PS Royal Garden, areas near CTT Tower, R.K. Dhaba and adjoining localities.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, FEB. 07		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:23
RISE	23:05	SET 10:16
SUNDAY, FEB. 08		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:23
RISE	23:55	SET 10:54
MONDAY, FEB. 09		
RISE	06:44	SET 18:23
RISE	00:00	SET 11:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	31	16
Bengaluru	29	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

MEDTECH SOCIETY
AMTZ Campus, Pragathi Maidan, VM Steel Project SO, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-530031, India
Office Email Id : info@medtechsociety.in

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice for and on behalf of AMTZ, Tenders are invited for the **Construction of Paralympic Technology Centre** with in the AMTZ campus, Visakhapatnam
Interested contractors may download the tender documents from **www.amtz.in** website or request the tender document within one week of the Tender Notification by emailing to **procurement@amtz.in, info@medtechsociety.in** with their company details and contact information
The detailed scope of work, eligibility criteria, terms and conditions will be provided in the tender document.

MEDTECH SOCIETY

Visvesvaraya Technological University
Jnana Sangama" Belagavi –590 018, Karnataka State, India
Ref. NoVTU/BGM/RE/2025-26 /IFT No.136/5774, Date:5th Feb 2026

Tender Notification-
Two Cover System (KPP Portal Only) 2nd call

The e-Tenders are invited in duplicate from eligible tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the work of Extension of first floor at NSS Bhavan at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi. (2nd Call) amounting to Rs.2,91,17,738/-(Excluding GST) (2nd call). Other details log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **06-02-2026.**
DIPR/Belagavi/1779/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26
Sd/- Registrar, VTU, Belagavi

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,
Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/PB/TND/2025-26/2871 Dated:04.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Item Highest Cost Selection (H-1) from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** – (1) I .No. SE0266 – 360.01 Lakhs (Others), **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 05.02.2026 to 14.02.2026 up to 5-00 PM. Pre-Bid Meeting Chief Engineer, KBJNL Dam Zone Almatti for I.No. SE0266 is 09.02.2026. Cover-II (Technical Bid) will be opened on 17.02.2026 at 11-00AM and Financial Bid will be opened on 20.02.2026 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
ಪಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/668/ಕೆಸ್ ಎಂಪಿಎ/2025–26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.)
No.PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26//7181 Date:06.02.2026
ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP PORTAL)

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item rate tenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1,2,3&4 Standard tender documents for a work under 2059 Dept Building Maintenance,2216 **Dept & Judicial Quarters Maintenance, 3054 SH Bridge Maintenance, 3054 MDR Bridge Maintenance, 4059 CMIDP Works, 4059 SCP CMIDP Works, 4059 Dept Buildings** total 17 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of **Rs.7.42 Lakhs and Rs.357.38 Lakhs** respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of **Rs. 9,300/-** and **Rs.5,36,100/-** Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on **16.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM** , Technical Bid Opening Date is on **17.02.2026 after 4.45 PM**, Part-2:Tender receipt Date is on **23.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM** , Technical Bid Opening Date is on **24.02.2026 after 4.45 PM**, Part-3:Tender receipt Date is on **27.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM** and Technical Bid Opening Date is on **02.03.2026 after 4.45 PM**. Part-4: Regarding the approval of the rates of works called under the "2059-80-053-4-00-200 Dept Building Maintenance" in Bailhongal Taluk of Belgaum District and "4059 Dept Buildings" in Ramdurg Taluk of Belgaum District, As the rates for some selected items are not available in the Uniform Price List for the year 2023-24 (continued to 2025-26), they have been posted on the notice board of this office. A notice is hereby issued inviting submission of quotations for the said items by **16.02.2026** subject to the said conditions. For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after **06.02.2026**. (Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department.
Belagavi Dn. Belagavi.
DIPR/1782/Belagavi/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat, Shivamogga
Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga-577201.
Phone: 08182-222382 e-mail ID: dhoshimoga@gmail.com
No.: DHFWS/O.S./16/2025-26 Date: 04.02.2026
Tender Notification

Sub.: Regarding e-Tender Invitation for providing services for Group – D and other posts on outsource basis to Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer and Subordinate Health Institutions for the year 2026-27.

Ref.: File approval of Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner Dt. 03.02.2026.

Tender applications are invited from eligible contractors as per Two Cover System as it has been approved in the file by Hon'ble Deputy Commissioner, Shivamogga for availing through e-procurement services of Group – D, Drivers, Nursing Officer and Data Entry Operator on outsource basis to Office of The District Health and Family Welfare Officer and Subordinate Health Institutions from the date of approval of Tender for the year 2026-27 (From 01.04.2026 to 31.03.2027 or up to the end of the next Tender Process).

1. Approx. Amount of Tender: As on e-Portal **2**. Commencement date for uploading the Tender in e-Portal: As on e-Portal **3**. Last date and time for uploading the Tender Application: As on e-Portal **4**. Date of opening the Technical Bid: As on e-Portal **5**. Date of opening the Financial Bid: As on e-Portal **6**. E.M.D. Amount to be uploaded in Tender: As on e-Portal

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/No.ksmca/25-26/46/02/1787

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813; website : www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-23965)

Tender Enquiry No. 17/GCD/PTA/TS/PSPCL/2025-26 | **Dated: 07.02.2026**

Addl. SE Construction Division PSPCL Patiala invites Open e-Tender for **"outsourcing work of erection, testing and commissioning of Additional 02 no. 20 MVA Power Transformers (Under Annexure B) along with bay equipments related works at 66 KV S/S Samgoli & Dhakoli (DS Circle Mohali) partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division Patiala, under Grid Cons. Circle, Ludhiana"** For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 07.02.2026 (09:00 AM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and Amendments, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 205/26 **1079/12/2025-26/8021**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
Labour Welfare & Skill Development Department
Commissionerate of Labour

Open Tender - NOTICE

Tender is invited by the Director, Tamil Nadu Academy of Construction, towards the selection of Training Provider to impart online skill training to 50,000 children of registered construction workers in Tamil Nadu Construction Workers Welfare Board.

The Tender document can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in/ 07.02.2026, : 10.00 pm.**

Last date and time for online submission of Tender through **https://tntenders.gov.in/** is **21.02.2026 till 03:00 pm.**

Queries if any will be addressed through email – **tncoltenders@gmail.com**. Kindly refer to the Tender document for instructions and information.

The Director (FAC),
Tamil Nadu Academy of Construction,
Thaiyur-103.
DIPR/802/TENDER/2026

ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–04. ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0821–2490025
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ddpimys@gmail.com&ddpi.edu.karmys@kar.nic.inc
ಸಂ: ಎ8/ಜಿ.ಪ.ಲಿ.ಡಾ–35/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2026

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2202–00–104–0–35ರ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ಲೈಬ್ರರಿ ಪರಿಕರಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು:– 1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.02.2026** **2)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: **155.43 ಲಕ್ಷ. 3)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2026. 4)** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 20.02.2026. 5)** Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21.02.2026,** ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು. **6)** Financial Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.02.2026,** ಡಿಡಿಪಿಐ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು. **7)** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: **ರೂ. 3,11,000/–. 8)** ವ್ಯವಹರಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0821–2490025 ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಡಿ.ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–04. **9)** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಪಶೀಲುಗಳಿಗೆ NEFT (ONLINE) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಆಸಕ್ತರು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಆಡಳಿತ)
ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/MYS/1619/SA/2025-26

PUBLIC (ELECTIONS-II) DEPARTMENT
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI - 600 009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender No.2/2026/940

e-Tenders are invited from reputed Companies / Agencies for fixing of GPS with Vehicle Tracking System in FST, SST, VST vehicles, EVMs, VVPATs transportation vehicles and Zonal Party Vehicles on rental basis for the General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 2026 for a period of one (1) year as per the guidelines/ instructions of the Election Commission of India. The details can be seen in the tender document which can be downloaded free of cost from the websites **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.elections.tn.gov.in**

1. Queries from the Companies / Agencies should be raised in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** by **05:00 P.M. on 10.02.2026.** The reply to the queries of the Companies/Agencies shall be uploaded by this Department by **05:00 P.M on 13.02.2026** in the website **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
2. The last date for submission of tender document by e-Procurement module – **3.00 P.M. on 20.02.2026.**
3. Technical Bids Opening to ascertain Number of bids received – **03:30 P.M. on 20.02.2026.**
4. Detailed Technical Evaluation by the Tender Evaluation Committee – **Will be decided later**
5. Financial Bid Opening - **Those bidders who have Technically qualified will be informed.**
6. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):- **Rs.5,00,000/-** by online module

For contact : 044 – 25665327

Additional Chief Electoral Officer &
Additional Secretary to Government
DIPR/805/Tender/2026

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
UPPER PALAR BASIN CIRCLE, VELLORE - 632 006.
Form of Contract: Lump sum - Item Rate Contract / Two Cover System
e- Tender Short Term Tender Notice No.07 / UPBC / Vellore / F-Tender / 2025-2026 / Dated:06.02.2026.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore – 632 006 from the eligible registered contractors having required experience for the following work as per tender document.

Sl. No	Name of Work	Approximate Value put to Tender (including GST @ 18%) Rs.in Lakhs	Period of Completion (including Monsoon Period)	Tender submission through online closing date and time (as per Server System Clock)	Date and time of Tender opening (as per Server Clock)
1.	Construction of Check Dam across Palar River near Ammundi Village in Katpadi Taluk of Vellore District.	4539.00	18 Months	18.02.2026 at 12:00 Hrs	18.02.2026 at 14:00 Hrs
2.	Construction of Check Dam across Ponnai River near Veppalai Village in Katpadi Taluk of Vellore District.	2242.00	12 Months	18.02.2026 at 12:00 Hrs	18.02.2026 at 14:10 Hrs

The tender documents will be available in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** to enable the tenderers to view and download of the e-tender document through online at free of cost and submission of tenders shall be done only through online.

Note : (i) It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction (or) modification uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting tender. (ii) The Tender Authority doesn't take any responsibility for the delay / non submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons. (iii) Tender may be cancelled at any stage by competent authority. (iv) Cost of EMD will be paid through online mode only and EMD cost as prescribed in the tender document.

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Upper Palar Basin Circle, Vellore-6
DIPR/ 800 /TENDER/2026

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Rethinking urban commutes

How walkable infrastructure can help reduce traffic congestion and boost city productivity

COVER

Aashit Verma

As Indians, many of us have grown up aspiring for the prestige of owning a fancy car. Yet, ask almost anyone enduring the daily grind on our city roads, and the sentiment is likely universal: dread. The daily commute, whether to work or a weekend outing, has become synonymous with soul-draining congestion and depleting productive hours that could otherwise be spent with family or focused on work. This widespread frustration, born from endless brake-paddle toggling in traffic, is reshaping our urban landscapes.

Indian cities are organically evolving into 'mini pocket cities,' where essential amenities such as malls, offices, and high streets are clustering within a 5 km radius of major residential zones. This decentralisation is a direct response to the long commute, inadvertently highlighting an overlooked opportunity in urban mobility.

According to the World Bank's insightful report 'Investing for momentum in active mobility', a significant portion of urban travel in India is short distance: 35% of trips are under 3 km, and 50% are under 10 km. This data reveals a compelling truth: at least 35% of these trips could potentially be offloaded from congested roads if our cities prioritised and properly developed pedestrian infrastructure. Astonishingly, the financial case for footpaths is compelling. The cost of constructing a well-designed footpath, complete with proper width, barricades, and level surfaces, is approximately ₹10 lakh per km. Compare this to an average of ₹10 crore per km for a modern road, and you quickly realise footpaths are roughly 100 times more cost-effective.

While footpaths alone cannot entirely resolve India's formidable traffic challenges or unlock all economic benefits, they represent a foundational requirement that can no longer be overlooked in the journey towards decongestion. Their impact multiplies exponentially when paired with robust public transport systems such as metro networks and efficient feeder buses, which together can significantly reduce reliance on private vehicles and make urban travel more predictable and manageable.

To truly grasp the potential of walkable cities and how Indian urban planning can strategically leverage its unique evolution, it's beneficial to examine how international metros encourage and utilise walking. Understanding these diverse contexts can illuminate practical lessons for our 'mini pocket cities.'

Examining global cities provides valuable context. Across cities worldwide, the share of trips made on foot varies widely, shaped by density, design, and climate. In Hong Kong, where extreme density, integrated skywalks, and a rail-first planning model dominate, walking accounts for an estimated 30%-40% of all trips, while Tokyo follows at around 20%-30%, supported by rail dominance and consistently safe sidewalks. London, with its walkable core and congestion charges, sees roughly 20%-25% of trips made on foot, and Copenhagen records about 15%-20%, reflecting its compact urban form and strong walking and cycling culture. By contrast, Singapore's walking share remains much lower, at about 5%-8%, largely constrained by its tropical climate.

The key takeaway for Indian cities is profound. Unlike many global metros, where density primarily drives walking, in our country, strategic walking paths paired with public transport can drastically reduce reliance on private cars within localised pockets.

This isn't merely about easing traffic; it holds immense potential for economic revitalization. Imagine business districts such as tech parks, office properties, malls, and shopping streets becoming far more accessible. This increased accessibility can directly translate into significantly higher commercial output and vibrancy across all urban pockets.

Holistic sustainability

Beyond the economic advantages, footpaths champion holistic sustainability. As a zero-carbon mode of transport, they directly contribute to mitigating air pollution and reducing the carbon footprint of our cities. Furthermore, a walkable urban environment has a deep, positive impact on the health and well-being of citizens, encouraging physical activity and fostering a more engaged public realm.

Footpaths unequivocally represent a crucial and cost-effective step to begin tackling what currently appears to be an intractable challenge. By prioritising walkable infrastructure in our town and country planning, we can lay a basic, yet superpowered, foundation for more efficient, sustainable, and economically vibrant Indian cities.

The writer is founder of Hanto Workspace.

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‘No leadership change in State’

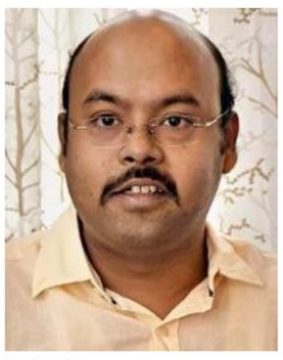
Yathindra says the Congress high command has sent a clear signal, and Siddaramaiah’s continuation as Chief Minister is a ‘settled issue’; the matter may be discussed only in the media, the Chief Minister’s son says

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Expressing confidence about Chief Minister Siddaramaiah completing the full five years at the helm in Karnataka, Yathindra, his son and MLC, claimed that the Congress high command had sent a clear signal that there will be no change of leadership in the State.

“The high command has sent a clear signal that there will not be a change of leadership in the State even if it has not explicitly said so. I believe he (Siddaramaiah) will remain the Chief Minister for the full five-year term,” Mr. Yathindra told reporters here on Friday.

Mr. Yathindra said there is no discussion about leadership change in political circles. The matter may be discussed only in the media, he said, before adding that Mr. Siddaramaiah’s continuation as Chief Minister was a “settled issue”.


Yathindra

The MLC said said there were no demands for the removal of Mr. Siddaramaiah from the post.

Important issues

Mr. Yathindra said there were other issues in the State that were begging for attention, and cited the upcoming Budget. He said issues such as the financial situation of the State, insufficient revenue inflow and the denial of Central allocations, needed attention.

To a question on the charge that his involvement in the Energy Department had upset Energy Minister K.J. George, Mr. Yathindra said, “Mr. George had issued a clarification in the matter.”

Claiming that his name had been unnecessarily dragged into the issue, Mr. Yathindra said the Opposition was dragging his name into the matter as they did not have any issue against the Chief Minister or the government.

MUDA sites

On the alleged MUDA scam, Mr. Yathindra said his mother, Parvathi, was happy that the special court in Bengaluru had accepted the ‘B’ report submitted by the Lokayukta police.

When asked if there would be any move to reclaim the MUDA sites that his mother had surrendered, Mr. Yathindra said his mother had not thought about the matter yet, and pointed out that the issue was not yet over, with the complainant planning to file an appeal in the High Court of Karnataka.

High command will have to respond: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar on Friday sought to put the ball in the court of the Congress high command with respect to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s son and MLC Yathindra’s statement that the high command had sent a clear signal that there will be no leadership change in Karnataka.

Speaking to mediapersons in Mangaluru, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the Congress high command will have to respond to such a statement. “I will not react. Whatever reaction will have to be given by Delhi authorities,” he said when asked about Mr. Yathindra’s remarks that his father will complete the full term and

D. K. Shivakumar

MLA Basavaraju’s statement that clarification is needed on the power sharing pact.

Ridiculing Mr. Yathindra, the Deputy Chief Minister remarked in a sarcastic manner that: “He is our high command. I will accept whatever he says with respect. When he has made a statement as if he is the high command, let us accept him as the high command.”

Give details of steps taken to clear illegal immigrants: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court orally said illegal immigration posed a threat to national security irrespective of the country of such illegal immigrants

Observing that the reported presence of a large number illegal immigrants in Bengaluru city and other parts of the State is a national security issue, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the city police to give details about steps taken for clearing illegal immigrants.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the direction in his February 4 interim order while staying one of the two criminal cases registered against Puneeth Kerehalli, a self-proclaimed activist, in connection with his acts of entering various places, including private lands, where illegal immigrants were allegedly residing.

Orally questioning what was wrong if any person tried to identify illegal immigrants and wanted the police to take action, the court stayed a First Information Report (FIR) registered *suo motu* by the police on the petitioner’s conduct of entering the some places in the city where alleged illegal immigrants, said to be from Bangladesh, were residing.

The court orally told the Additional State Public Prosecutor B.N. Jagadheesha that illegal immigration posed a threat to national security irrespective of the country of such illegal immigrants.

Probe in one case on

However, the court did not stay the investigation on another FIR registered based on a complaint lodged by Karibasappa, owner of a private property, who alleged that the petitioner had trespassed into his property and assaulted certain persons in the guise of enquiring about alleged illegal immigrants residing there.

The court has only asked the police not to take coercive step against the petitioner in this case while directing the police to produce the video footage of the alleged incident after Mr. Jagadeesha told the court that there were video recordings on the alleged act of assault by the petitioner.

Earlier, advocate for the petitioner, Venkatesh P. Dalwai contended that instead of acting against the illegal immigrants, the police were registering FIRs against the petitioner, who was intimating the police about locations where such immigrants were residing. Petitioner’s counsel also told the court that media reports indicate that there are nearly 20 lakh illegal immigrants in Karnataka.

However, Mr. Jagadeesha said that the State authorities were acting against illegal immigrants and many of them had been sent to foreigners’ detention centre for deporting them to their country of origin by the authorities of the Union government.

HC stays FIR against private drone development firm; seeks explanation from inspector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed a police inspector to explain his conduct of not giving a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) and making officials of a private firm, engaged in research, development and testing of drone and unmanned aerial vehicles, to sit in the police station for over six hours and demanding the company’s financial and other details.

The court also stayed the investigation based on the FIR registered *suo motu* by the Doddaballapur Rural police on January 29 against unknown persons initially and notices issued to the officials of the company on January 30. The FIR was registered under Sections 125 (an act endangering life or personal safety of others) and 329(3) (criminal trespass) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on the petition filed by Bengaluru-based Newspace Research and Technologies, which supplies drones to Indian armed

forces and has its testing centre on a leased land spread over 48 acres in Doddaballapur.

It has been stated in the petition that a lightweight research drone belonging to the company suffered a battery malfunction during routine test and glided beyond the boundary of its premises and landed smoothly in a neighbouring property on June 29. However, the company did not take up search activity as it was dark.

Suo motu FIR

Later, a police constable, based on an alert received through police control room, came to the spot and took the drone to the police station and then the FIR was registered against unknown persons on the same day. However, on January 30 the notice was served on the company officials.

The officials pointed out to the police inspector that the company is a licensed drone research and testing agency under the control of Director General of Civil Aviation, its testing are legally permitted activity under Drones Rules, 2021 and other laws, besides explaining the circumstance under which it glided away from its boundary and landed on neighbouring property.

However, police inspector Sadiq Pasha refused to give a copy of the FIR and wanted the managing director of the company to come to the police station and provide details of number of employees working, turnover, revenue, etc., and made the officials sit in the station for about six hours. Finally, the copy of FIR was provided after company’s legal adviser said that they would be compelled to complaint to the Lokayukta.

Oppose VB-G RAM G Act, Siddaramaiah tells farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called upon farmers of the State to “unanimously oppose” the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025, brought in by the Union government in place of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) Act, 2005. He was speaking after inaugurating this year’s edition of International Trade and Organic Fair here on Friday.

This comes days after the State government passed a resolution demanding the reinstatement of MGNREG Act, 2005 repealing the VB G-RAM-G Act, 2025. On the floor of the House, the Chief Minister and several Congress leaders had vowed to take the struggle against the new law to the streets and warned the BJP that this could again trigger an agitation like the one that successfully forced the Union government to backtrack on farm laws.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy during the inauguration of the International Trade Fair 2026 in Bengaluru on Friday.

Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged that MGNREGA was scrapped without consulting State governments and replaced with the VB-G RAM G Act, from which Mahatma Gandhi’s name has been removed. He told farmers across Karnataka to demand the reinstatement of MGNREGA and reject the new law.

Criticising the Centre’s move, the Chief Minister said MGNREG Act, 2005, introduced during former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh’s tenure, had ensured employment for women, tribal people and labourers, with works decided at the gram sabha level.

He pointed out that these powers have now been centralised, with the Union government deciding works and grants. Under MGNREG Act, 2005, he said, the Centre earlier bore the full wage cost and guaranteed 100 days of work, whereas under the new arrangement, only 60% of the subsidy is provided, leaving States to bear the remaining 40%.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State government had reinstated the Krishi Bhagya Yojana, which he termed as one of the most important promises fulfilled from the Congress manifesto.

“The scheme, which was suspended during the previous BJP government’s tenure, has now been revived with an allocation of about ₹200 crore,” he said, highlighting other welfare schemes such as Shakti, Gruha Jyothi and Gruha Lakshmi, describing them as crucial for women.

3 convicted in Hampi gang rape, murder case

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The First Additional District and Sessions Court at Gangavathi in Koppal district on Friday convicted all three accused in the high-profile Hampi gang rape and murder case that had drawn national and international attention following the brutal sexual assault on two women, including a foreign tourist, and the killing of an Indian male tourist near the UNESCO World Heritage Site last year.

The court held Mallesh alias Handi Malla alias Mallayya, 22, Sai alias Chaitannay Sai alias Saikumar, 21, and Sharanappa alias Sharanabasavaraj, 27, guilty of multiple serious offences, including murder, gang rape, rape, attempt to murder and robbery. The sentence will be pronounced on February 16, 2026, after hearing the convicts on sentencing.

The court convicted all three accused for the murder of Bibhas Kumar Nayak, a tourist from Odisha, under Section 103(1) of the BNS (corresponding to Section 302 of the IPC), read with the common intention clause. The court also found the three accused guilty of attempt to murder and causing injuries to two male tourists, one from Maharashtra and another from the U.S., under Section 109(1) of the BNS.

All three were convicted for robbery by causing hurt to the Indian woman victim.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr.Yannam Sreenivasa Reddy** & Others, intends to purchase property bearing Site No.5, Property No.137, Old Property No.28, situated at Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West 99.5 feet, and North to South 50.5 feet, totally measuring 5024.75 Sq.feet, and bounded on the

East by : Hospital Property;
West by : 20 feet wide Road;
North by : Site No.6;
South by : Site No.4;

from Mr.B.N. Narayanaswamy S/o Sri.Nanjappa Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence **within 15 days** from this day to the undersigned.

SNR ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
Flat No.402, Fourth Floor,
“Samaikyaa’s K.K.Veni Plaza”
B.Narayanapura, White Field Main Road,
Bangalore – 560 016. MOB: 9986630842

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **Mr.K Pratap Reddy** & Others, intends to purchase property bearing Site No.4, Property No.137, Old Property No.28, situated at Byrathi Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, presently under the jurisdiction of BBMP, measuring East to West 99.5 feet, and North to South 50.5 feet, totally measuring 5024.75 Sq.feet, and bounded on the

East by : Hospital;
West by : 20 feet wide Road;
North by : Site No.5;
South by : Site No.1, 2 & 3.

from Mrs.Ramavathi W/o Late Sri.Mahesh Kumar .L, Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence **within 15 days** from this day to the undersigned.

SNR ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
Flat No.402, Fourth Floor,
“Samaikyaa’s K.K.Veni Plaza”
B.Narayanapura, White Field Main Road,
Bangalore – 560 016. MOB: 9986630842

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Notice is hereby given to Public is hereby informed that my client is intending to purchase the below mentioned schedule property from its owner Mr. J.V. ADARSHA PRASAD S/o J.S. Virupakshaiah, aged about 47 years, Residing at: No.1340, 7th Cross, J.P Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore-560078.

Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of said property by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, Mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, lis pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement, or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, option, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, is hereby required to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand & the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents & purposes. Claims without documentary proofs and/or objections directly published in Newspaper shall not be considered as Valid.

Schedule Property

All that piece and Parcel of the Residential Property bearing Site No. **E-80, MANYATHA RESIDENCY,** BBMP Thanisandra Ward No. 06, Rachenahalli Bangalore-560045, having **BBMP Application No. 1600583910**, Measuring **East to West** 80 **Feet and North** to **South** 50 Feet totally measuring 4000 formed in Sy Nos. 8/1,8/4, 8/5, 16/3, 28/4, 31/1, 31/2, 31/3, 31/4 of Rachenahalli Village, situated at “MANYATHA RESIDENCY”, Thanisandra Ward No. 06, Rachenahalli village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk Bangalore a layout Approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, and bounded on the;

East By: Road, West By :Site No. E-70, North By: Site No. E-79. South By: Site No. E-81

Sri. PRAVEEN KUMAR RODDAM
S/o Surendra Babu Roddam
Residing at #A-1002, 10th Floor
Bairavi Cruz Laxury Apartment
Chelekeri Main Road,
Opp: to St. Rocks church,
Kalyan Nagar,Bangalore-560043
Mobile: 77955 68030

SD/-HANUMANTH R., ADVOCATE
Mobile: 9620697201

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking an investigation of the title in relation to certain immovable properties more fully described in the ‘**Schedule**’ hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as ‘**Schedule Properties**’. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of acquiring the Schedule Properties. The persons detailed in the table hereinbelow (‘**Owners**’) have represented to our Client that they own the lands comprised in the Schedule Properties in the manner detailed therein and that they have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **10 (ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land being portion of Survey No. 47/1, situated at Thammarasanahalli Village, Silibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and the agricultural lands bearing Survey Nos. 53/4 and 54/3, both situated at Chikkaralagere Village, Silibele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, detailed in the table hereinbelow:

Sl No.	Survey Nos.	Extent	Boundaries	Name of the Owners
	Thammarasanahalli Village			
1	47/1	23 ¾ Guntas (including 1 Gunta of ‘A’ kharab)	East by : Remaining portion of Land bearing Survey No. 47/1; West by : Land bearing Survey No. 48/2; North by : Lands bearing Survey Nos. 48/6, 48/3 and 49/1; and South by : Lands bearing Survey Nos. 84/1 and 84/4.	(I) Mrs. Parvin Taj; (ii) Mr. Syed Hussain; (iii) Mr. Syed Masood; (iv) Mr. Syed Muthahir;and (v) Mr. Syed Mushahid.
	Chikkaralagere Village			
2	53/4	7 ½ Guntas	East by : Chikkaralagere Village Boundary; West by : Land bearing Survey No. 53/3; North by : Land bearing Survey No. 51; and South by : Land bearing Survey No. 54.	(I) Mrs. Amtul Karima; (ii) Mr. Mohammed Arphath; (iii) Mr. Mohammed Fahad; (iv) Mr. Mohammed Shuaib; (v) Mr. Mohammed Saqib; (vi) Mr. Mohammed Tousif; (vii) Mrs. Waheeda; (viii) Mr. Mohammed Ilyas; (ix) Mohammed Fayaz.
	Chikkaralagere Village			
3	54/3	4 ¼ Guntas	East by : Land bearing Survey No. 54/4; West by : Land bearing Survey No. 54/2; North by : Land bearing Survey No. 53; and South by : Land bearing Survey No. 17/1.	(I) Mrs. Amtul Karima; (ii) Mr. Mohammed Arphath; (iii) Mr. Mohammed Fahad; (iv) Mr. Mohammed Shuaib; (v) Mr. Mohammed Saqib; (vi) Mr. Mohammed Tousif; (vii) Mrs. Waheeda; (viii)Mr. Mohammed Ilyas; (ix) Mohammed Fayaz.

Sd/-
Mr. Srinivas B.R., Partner
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770.

Date :**07.02.2026**
Place : Bengaluru

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD ANNIVERSARY

Smt. USHA RAJAGOPALAN
PGT (Hindi) Retd.,
Kendriya Vidyalayas, Chennai, Etc.
08.03.1958 - 07.02.2023
“She Taught Values Beyond Textbooks”
Fondly Remembered by
Family, Relatives & Friends
99629 26578 / 95386 46688

17th ANNIVERSARY

R.RAJALAKSHMI
W/O. Late Navalpakkam Rajagopalan
“You are living in our Hearts”
Fondly Remembered By
Raaghavan and Sudha
Krishnamurthy and Sandhya
Sampath and Jayshree
Radha and Selvakumar
Kalyani and Suryanarayan
Grand Children and Great Grand Children....

INBRIEF

ED summons actor Jayaram in Sabarimala gold theft case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has summoned Malayalam actor Jayaram for questioning in the Sabarimala gold case-linked money laundering investigation, officials said on Friday. The SIT had questioned Jayaram sometime back in Chennai. A video of the actor and Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused, performing puja together was reported to be the basis for Mr. Jayaram's questioning. The actor had then denied any wrongdoing. PTI

Kerala actor arrested in hit-and-run case; let off on bail

The Thiruvananthapuram City police on Friday recorded the arrest of Malayalam film actor Maniyanpilla Raju in connection with a hit-and-run incident in which two youth were injured after his car knocked down their motorcycle on Thursday night. Mr. Raju appeared at the Museum police station around 9.30 a.m., nearly 12 hours after the incident. He was later released on station bail following a medical examination at the General Hospital.

Kerala not to implement National Population Register

The Kerala government has issued a fresh notification on Thursday to reaffirm that the National Population Register (NPR) will not be implemented in the State under any circumstances. The order comes even as preparations begin for the upcoming national Census. The gazette notification reiterates that all activities related to the updation of the NPR in Kerala have remained suspended with effect from December 20, 2019.

SC gives Telangana Speaker 3 weeks to rule on defections

Setting a deadline on the disqualification pleas of 2 BRS MLAs, the apex court cautioned that this would be the final opportunity for the Speaker and any delay would amount to contempt of court

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday gave the Telangana Assembly Speaker a final opportunity to decide disqualification petitions against the remaining two of the 10 Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) legislators who faced defection charges after shifting allegiance to the ruling Congress party.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Karol gave the Assembly Speaker three weeks to positively decide the petitions. The court cautioned the Speaker, which acts as a quasi-judicial tribunal under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution, would be in contempt if a decision is delayed beyond the deadline.

In November last year, the top court had warned that the Speaker was in "gross contempt" for delaying a decision on the petitions.

In November last year, the apex court had similarly warned that the Speaker was in "gross contempt" for delaying a decision on the petitions. Subsequently in December, the Speaker had rejected seven of the 10 disqualification petitions.

On Friday, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the State of Telangana, said a decision had been taken in a further one. He sought three weeks more for the Speaker to decide the case against the last two legislators. In July, the top court had allowed the Speaker three months to complete the disqualification proceedings under the Tenth Schedule.

"This is gross contempt. We have already said he does not enjoy Constitutional immunity while acting as a tribunal under the Tenth Schedule," Chief Justice (now retired) B.R. Gavai had orally observed in the July 2025 hearing.

The court has consistently endeavoured to impress upon the Telangana Speaker that his office cannot sit over disqualification petitions till they "die a natural death" towards the end of the term of the House.

Will consider high-speed rail if Kerala govt. is interested, says Union Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Friday said in the Rajya Sabha that the SilverLine semi-high-speed rail project proposed by Kerala was not feasible as it had a major environmental impact. The Minister, who criticised the State for its non-cooperation in rail development works, said the Centre was ready to consider the high-speed rail project if the State was interested.

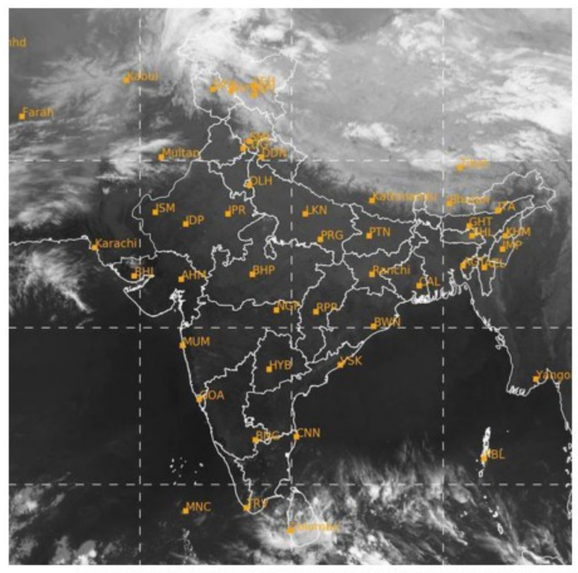
Ashwini Vaishnaw

In the case of the Sabari rail project, the Union Minister said the the State government had been approached several times regarding the Angamaly-Sabarimala railway line. After persuasion, the Chief Minister initiated the land acquisition process, possibly because of the upcoming elections, he said. He expressed hope that the acquisition would continue beyond the elections.

In the meantime, technocrat E. Sreedharan said that the State government's move to go ahead with the Regional Rail Transit System (RRTS) was either out of ignorance or with the sole intention to derail the proposed high-speed rail. RRTS caters to passenger services within a metropolitan area. How can the Kerala government plan a long railway line from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod terming it as RRTS, he asked.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.6	11.4	Kozhikode	—	34.6	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	32.0	18.8	Kurnool	—	33.9	19.4
Aizawl	—	27.9	12.0	Lucknow	—	24.3	9.0
Allahabad	—	25.0	9.2	Madurai	—	33.4	21.2
Bengaluru	—	29.5	16.0	Mangaluru	—	34.6	21.2
Bhopal	—	27.0	10.2	Mumbai	—	35.1	20.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.2	16.6	Mysuru	—	31.2	17.0
Chandigarh	—	23.5	8.3	New Delhi	—	24.8	9.1
Chennai	—	30.2	22.5	Patna	—	23.8	12.8
Coimbatore	—	32.5	19.5	Port Blair	—	30.6	23.9
Dehradun	—	25.9	8.7	Puducherry	—	29.6	20.5
Gangtok	—	14.8	8.8	Pune	—	31.7	18.9
Goa	—	35.6	22.0	Raipur	—	31.3	17.9
Guwahati	—	28.2	12.2	Ranchi	—	24.7	13.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	17.0	Shillong	—	17.6	6.1
Hyderabad	—	30.4	17.5	Shimla	—	18.4	6.6
Imphal	—	25.1	5.0	Srinagar	—	12.2	-2.5
Jaipur	—	27.2	10.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	24.0
Kochi	—	31.0	25.0	Tiruchi	—	31.3	20.6
Kohima	—	19.2	8.6	Vijayawada	—	31.0	19.7
Kolkata	—	26.4	16.3	Visakhapatnam	—	29.9	20.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.35	103	19	112	104	
Bengaluru	6	31	20	161	130	
Chennai	9	10	51	83	104	
Delhi	.12	202	45	255	206	
Hyderabad	6	10	57	166	152	
Kolkata	9	98	35	182	130	
Lucknow	7	51	61	97	200	
Mumbai	.27	92	34	144	133	
Pune	—	77	51	250	211	
Visakhapatnam	9	88	20	135	160	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dewas, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 304 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Chief Executive Officer,
Karnataka Maritime Board, Baithkol, Karwar-581302

No.KMB-30/WKS-III/2025-26 Dated: 05.02.2026

TENDER NOTICE (Only in E-Procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, tender is invited in E-Procurement (KPPP Portal) to execute below mentioned work. To participate in E-Procurement, and for more information visit **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp)** website. For further Extension, if any refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

Name of work/Indent Number: (1) IDD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT175/CALL-3 Single cover (2) IDD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT169/CALL-3 Single cover (3) IDD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT147/ CALL-3 Single cover

To All the above Works: Last date for Queries/ Clarification: **13.02.2026 @ 17.30 hours**, Last Date of receipt of Tender: **18.02.2026 @ 17.30 hours.**

For further details and general enquiries, prospective bidders may contact the undersigned office **(phone No.: 08382-221035/221494 and E-mail: piwtdev.wks@gmail.com)** during working hours.

Sd/- Port Engineer,
Karnataka Maritime Board, Karwar

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1051/25-26 Dt: 06.02.2026

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works against following enquiry Nos.

(1) CEE/Tr(Op)/ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL/F-482(4)/2025-26/9889 Date: 04.02.2026
Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/TTK-28 for "Replacement of Existing deteriorated Battery Sets of 220V, 600AH Battery Bank-1 and Bank-2 **under Buy Back Scheme** at **400kV Nelamangala R/s,** coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala on **Total Turnkey Basis** including supply of Battery Set, along with installing, assembling, filling of acid, wiring, assisting, test charging and discharging of 220V Battery set and commissioning".

(2) CEE/Tr(Op)/ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL/F-482(3)/2025-26/9888 Date: 04.02.2026
Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-17/CALL-2 for "Providing new Bank-3 along with 1CX1000Sqmm UG Cable run from 31.5MVA Power Transformer-2 to new bank-3 at **66/11kV Alur sub-station** coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala in Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials/equipments **(Excluding Supply of 11kV Switchgears)** and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

(3) CEE/Tr(Op)/ZB/SEE(O)/AE-2/NEL/F-482(2)/2025-26/9955 Date: 06.02.2026
Enquiry No:KPTCL/CEE/T(O)Z/BZ/PTK-18, Indent No.KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 2590 (CALL-3) for "Supply, Erection and Commissioning of New Capacitor Banks of capacity 2X2.904 MVAR at **66/11kV Kudur sub-station** coming under Operations Division, Nelamangala in Magadi Taluk, Bengaluru South District. on **Partial Turnkey Basis** including supply of all matching materials **(Excluding Supply of 11kV Switchgears)** / equipments and erection (including civil works) of all materials/equipments, testing and commissioning".

The Bids will be received through electronic tender mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging into Karnataka Public Procurement (KPP) Portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 07.02.2026.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy, Transmission (Operations)
Zone, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagar Division,
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/19/2025-26 Date: 07-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivajinagar Division), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BCCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of Works detailed below.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Comprehensive Development of CC Roads, Drains and Footpath to Cobbler Colony at Block No: 79/1, 79/2 in Ward No. 118, Sampangiramanagara. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 159.85, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,40,000.00**
2	Comprehensive Development of CC Roads, Drains and Footpath to Rajiv Gandhi Colony at Block No: 81, 82/1, 82/2 in Ward No. 118, Sampangiramanagara. **Amount Put to Tender (without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 239.84, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 3,60,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **18-02-2026 at 15.00 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, GBA Office Compound, N.R. Square, Bengaluru. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **18-02-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid is **19-02-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **After Technical Bid Approved.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಗಣಿ
ಜಿಗಣಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–560105.
ದೂ: 080–29760400, E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com, jiganideo@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಜಿ.ಪು.ಕಾ/ತಾಂ.ಶಾ/ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ/19/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿದಧ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ಥಿಪಡಿಸಲು 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪುರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಲೋಕೊಪಯೋಗಿ / ಬೆಸ್ಕಾಂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ವಿಷಯ
1	ಜಿಗಣಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿದಧ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ದುರಸ್ಥಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT54357 **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 65.26 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು**

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2)** ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. **3)** ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–29760400 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_jigani@yahoo.com **4)** ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅನುದಾನದ ಲಭ್ಯತೆಯ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಿಲ್ಲನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪುರಸಭೆ,
ಜಿಗಣಿ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಜಿಗಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಎ/5491/2025–26

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
(LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2610/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001487) (1st Call)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 132/33kV Shirsoli Substation along with construction of 132kV D/C LILO Line On 132kV Bambhori-Erandol line for 132kV Shirsoli Substation (RL-23.546km) Dist. Jalgaon under Nashik Zone, MSETCL, Maharashtra."

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 02.02.2026.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

DIRECTORATE OF ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF CITIZEN SERVICES (EDCS)
Embassy Icon Building, 4th Floor, Infantry Road, Bangalore-560001.
Ph: 080-22230281 **Fax:** 080-22230282 **e-mail:** dir-edcs@karnataka.gov.in

No.: EDCS/29/ADM/2025 (e-1995423) Date : 06.02.2026

APPLICATION FOR DEPUTATION

Applications have been invited from eligible state or central Government sector employees to work on deputaion in the post as below :

Deputy Director-1 Post, Assistant Director - 3 Posts. First Division Assistants - 2 Posts

Interested candidates can download the application from **www.edcs.karnataka.gov.in** website/careers. Filled applications shall be sent to email id: **dir-edcs@karnataka.gov.in**. Last Date for submission of application **05.03.2026**

Sd/- Director
Directorate of EDCS

DIPR/CP/SA/5493/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಸಿಎಮ್‌ಐಡಿಪಿ–ಎಸ್‌ಸಿಪಿ–ಟಿಎಸ್‌ಪಿ/ತಾಸ/2025–26/ 1794 ದಿನಾಂಕ:05.02.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-2& 3 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: 1) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಲ್ಲಿಭಾವಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಅಮ್ಮಾಪುರ (ವ್ಹಾಯ ಬೈಲ ಹನುಮಪ್ಪ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ) ವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22814/CALL-2 General 2) ಸುರಪೂರ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆನಕನಳ್ಳಿಯಿಂದ ರಾಯಗೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22269/CALL-2 **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎಸ್.ಸಿ.ಪಿ.&ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 25.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ:** 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 07.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 16.02.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 16.02.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–2:** 18.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ:** 18.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:** 21.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **11) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **12) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ: ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/513/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4827/2025-26 Dated: 06.02.2026	1.	₹ 90,33,846/- / ₹ 1,80,700/-	16.02.2026 upto 3:00 pm	17.02.2026 after 3:00 pm
2.			2.	₹ 26,11,008/- / ₹ 52,300/-		
3.			3.	₹ 12,79,181/- / ₹ 32,000/-		
4.			4.	₹ 25,86,838/- / ₹ 51,800/-		
5.			5.	₹ 47,77,402/- / ₹ 95,600/-		
6.			6.	₹ 49,99,523/- / ₹ 1,00,000/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4827/2025-26 Dated: 06.02.2026 (Reserved for II-A Category)	7.	₹ 44,04,778/- / ₹ 44,100/-		
8.		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4827/2025-26 Dated: 06.02.2026 (Reserved for II-A Category)	8.	₹ 65,28,649/- / ₹ 65,300/-		
9.		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4827/2025-26 Dated: 06.02.2026 (Reserved for SC Category)	9.	₹ 23,78,253/- / ₹ 25,000/-		
10.		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4827/2025-26 Dated: 06.02.2026 (Reserved for ST Category)	10.	₹ 29,93,585/- / ₹ 30,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/5498/CCL/2025-26

Distressing regularity

Illegal mining should become socially expensive and operationally prohibitive

The explosion in an illegal rat-hole mine in Meghalaya on February 5, killing at least 18 workers, is a grim reminder that court supervision cannot substitute governance. Illegal coal mining in India is a long-running problem, but the northeast, especially Meghalaya's coal belt, has a distinct ecosystem – of small privately or community-owned landholdings, thin coal seams, weak local enforcement, and supply chains – that can launder illegal coal into legitimate markets through intermediaries. Rat-hole mining is the norm (for illegal setups), and they are prone to collapsing because they lack engineered roofs and side-wall protections. The National Green Tribunal ordered its cessation in 2014, but illegal mines have continued due to a high local dependence on income from coal, fragmented ownership and contractorships that spread accountability and patronage. Operators of illegal mines also underreport accidents and keep workers off formal records; and while workers' deaths hit the headlines, injuries – due to polluted water, acid drains, unstable landscapes, and degraded roads – and child labour use do not.

Illegal coal is currently not easy to separate from legacy or auctioned coal once it has entered the supply chain. But the expected cost of illegal extraction and transport needs to go up. Meghalaya already has a framework to prevent illegal mining, transport, and storage under the MMDR Act. Using technology to reduce the cost of detection, it should add mandatory GPS tracking for all coal carriers, invalidate consignments that deviate from a specific route, and integrate satellite and drone patrol data with control rooms. Illegal mining should also become socially expensive, perhaps through community monitoring, incentivised by sharing penalties with local bodies. Conversely, the State should pressure intermediaries with seizure, cancelled licences, prosecution, and blacklisting from auctions. Next, bans fail sans alternatives, so the State should displace illegal mining as an income source by setting up credit and market linkages for horticulture, construction, small manufacturing and tourism, and refitting public works to absorb mining labour. Finally, the State must dismantle incentives on the supply side; the February 5 blast shows that illegal mines continue to access an informal labour market. To this end, the State may allow workers to testify in exchange for amnesty, and aggressively pursue errant contractors. It should also subvert the administrative tolerance for such contractors by rotating postings in hotspot districts and independently auditing permits, among others. Treating rat-hole mining as an enforcement issue alone risks pushing the practice further underground.

Cycles of revolt

Pakistan risks being in eternal conflict with the Baloch rebels

The coordinated attacks by the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) across multiple districts underline a grim truth: Pakistan's largest province remains trapped in a deepening cycle of violence. According to Pakistani authorities, at least 30 civilians and 18 security personnel were killed in the January 31 attacks. In response, the Pakistani military reportedly killed at least 150 Baloch fighters. But such reprisals are unlikely to produce any lasting improvement in Balochistan's security situation. In March 2025, after Baloch militants hijacked the Jaffar Express, Pakistan's largely reactive, and often disproportionate military responses, have done little to break the cycle. On the other side, Baloch rebel groups, including the BLA, the Balochistan Liberation Front, and several smaller outfits, have established the Baloch Raaji Aajoi Sangar, a united front, for improved coordination. While militant violence against civilians is indefensible, the Pakistani state's long reliance on coercion has fuelled the very insurgency it seeks to crush. As security conditions along the country's tribal borderlands deteriorated in recent years, particularly after the Taliban captured power in Kabul, Baloch rebels and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan Islamists used the chaos to regroup themselves and intensify hit-and-retreat operations, leading to a rapid decline in internal security across provinces bordering Afghanistan.

Balochistan is Pakistan's most resource-rich province, with vast mineral reserves and a strategic Arabian Sea coastline. It has drawn growing international attention, especially as the $60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passes through it. More recently, Pakistan has pitched mineral extraction deals to American companies. Baloch nationalists and militants argue that extraction and infrastructure projects proceed with little transparency, minimal local participation and limited economic benefit for local communities. Security crackdowns and counterinsurgency campaigns have worsened alienation. Human rights groups have repeatedly documented enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detentions. Equally troubling is Islamabad's reflexive tendency to blame India for unrest in Balochistan, without presenting verifiable evidence. This narrative may serve short-term political ends, but avoids the introspection required. Since its annexation in 1948, Balochistan has witnessed five major waves of rebellions. Each time, the Pakistani state relied on brute force to restore order, only for violence to return after only a fragile lull. If Pakistan is serious about peace and stability in the region, opting for political reconciliation, rather than confrontation, addressing long-standing Baloch grievances, including economic and political exclusion, and opening channels for dialogue, even with rebel groups, are essential steps. Otherwise, the country risks remaining locked in a perpetual conflict with its own people.

'Hop-on, hop-off' — the state of climate governance

C.K. Mishra

is former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

A.K. Mehta

is former Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

The current architecture of global climate governance increasingly resembles a pair of 'hop-on, hop-off' buses. One has the CMP (the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol), and the other, the CMA (the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement), circling endlessly without real direction. There is no obligation to reach the stated destination.

In this vacuum, the politics of climate change has emerged as the undisputed winner. National interest overrides global urgency with predictable regularity. Consensus, once celebrated as a virtue, reflects the inability of the parties to agree on the rules of voting, thus ensuring a veto for each party, diplomatically disguised as cooperation. Ambition appears in preambles; hesitation dominates operative paragraphs. Alongside politics stands the economics of climate change, shaping its contours with even greater force.

The common man is last

When governments hesitate, markets step in. Corporates, financiers and technology leaders thrive in the uncertainty that slows political action; short-term profits rarely, if ever, wait for long-term planetary consequences. The climate economy is driven not by precaution but by opportunism, because incentives reward the present. The future, after all, is not at the negotiating table.

Meanwhile, ordinary people lose, as they usually do. Their attention remains anchored to immediate needs: food, housing, health, employment. Climate change is a distant abstraction until it arrives as disaster, by which time they are victims, not stakeholders. And if citizens are not demanding climate action, politics need not respond, since risks outweigh benefits. For most people, climate change is neither daily nor urgent.

Scientists have long completed their part. The physics is established, the risks quantified, the future scenarios depicted, and uncertainties explained. What follows is not scientific uncertainty but the politics of science – uncertainty repurposed to justify delay, to diffuse responsibility, and to argue that the moment for decisive action is perpetually "not yet".

Politicians have also played their predictable role. The politics of climate change consists largely of managing expectations, avoiding costs, and postponing decisions. Governing the climate within political timeframes is an impossible equation.

Economics reinforces this short-termism. Profits on the near horizon overwhelm moral arguments; growth imperatives overwhelm ecological restraint. Future generations are not market participants. Therefore, markets do not account for them.

> There is an illusion of progress in climate negotiations, with more process and less action

The result is a system in which each sector moves according to its own logic: science pursues truth through evidence, politics pursues power, economics pursues profit, individuals pursue livelihood, and climate pursues aspiration. The system behaves exactly as designed – and, therefore, achieves exactly as predicted. Not surprisingly, every Conference of the Parties is described as a success, with virtually no climate action to follow, except those that assist in the concomitant pursuit of power and profit. We know the destination. But the path remains obscured by competing priorities and an unwillingness to bear cost. Thus Kyoto failed. Paris is failing. The desire for climate stability remains widespread, but the willingness to act remains selective.

Drift, inadequacy, no driver

This is the structural condition of global climate governance today – not collapse, but drift; not absence, but inadequacy; not denial of the destination, but absence of a driver. COP30 only confirmed this. It delivered the "global mutirão" package, emphasising cooperation and togetherness to address climate change, but its measures remain largely voluntary, burying the basic spirit of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing nations enshrined in the Convention. It failed to change much because it was never designed to. The promises were new; the politics remained the same.

It was advertised as the COP that would "keep 1.5°C alive", even though the world had already drifted far beyond its reach. No negotiator realistically expected a 1.5°C outcome; the political space for such ambition does not exist. According to the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2024, global greenhouse gas emissions reached around 57.4 $GtCO_2e$ in 2024, the highest in human history. At the current rate, the world is projected to cross 1.5°C in the early 2030s.

Countries were politely urged to be more ambitious, but no new obligations were created. Even the attempt to include clear fossil-fuel language failed. Finance followed the same rhythm. Parties expressed ambition to scale up climate finance, but the final text relied on voluntary measures and offered no binding timetable. Actual needs for mitigation and adaptation in developing countries exceed $2.4 trillion-$3 trillion per year, while current flows are under $400 billion. What emerged instead was a document full of encouragement and intentions but empty of commitments. No country agreed who would pay, how much, or by when – much as it has always been.

Adaptation, the work of preparing societies for rising heat, floods, droughts, and storms, also stalled. Although leaders pledged to "triple" adaptation finance at COP30, the decision did not specify a baseline year or binding sources of funds, leaving the pledge effectively aspirational. Countries adopted a long list of indicators to measure progress, but the list was put together hastily, criticised for lack of clarity, and disconnected from any plan to provide the large sums adaptation requires.

If anything is clear after more than three decades of climate negotiations, it is that all countries need to prepare to adapt, since adaptation will have to be undertaken with or without a global agreement.

Loss and damage, the issue of helping countries hit hardest by climate disasters, made small steps. COP30 formally opened the new loss and damage fund to applications, yet the fund's capitalisation and initial disbursements remain small relative to projected needs, underscoring the gap between institutional creation and operational capacity.

Technology transfer – getting climate-friendly technologies to developing countries – again stayed more in concept than in action. New programmes were announced. New themes were added. But the financial support required to operationalise them did not follow.

Capacity building, especially the support poorer countries need to monitor and report their climate progress, also moved in circles. The just transition agenda, ensuring that climate action does not leave workers and vulnerable communities behind, produced strong statements. Rights were acknowledged, principles affirmed, and processes created. But none of it is binding, and none of it comes with resources. It recognises justice; it does not deliver it.

A widening gap

Across all seven pillars, the pattern is unmistakable. COP30 produced more language, more platforms, more frameworks, more processes – but not more action. The gap between what the climate needs and what politics delivers remains as wide as ever.

Yet, for all its structural flaws, chronic inertia, and theatrical ambition, the UNFCCC and its COP process remain the only universally legitimate, near-universal-membership forum humanity possesses for coordinated climate action. Neither the G-7, the G-20, BRICS, nor any coalition of the willing has the mandate, inclusivity, or legal architecture to substitute for it. Abandoning it would leave even less hope than persisting with it. The problem is that while one can hop on and hop off the CMP and the CMA, one cannot hop off the planet.

The India-EU trade deal is also a strategic turning point

Constantino Xavier

is Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)

Last week, India and the European Union (EU) achieved what, until just a year or two ago, many observers considered impossible: meeting halfway to conclude a long-elusive trade agreement. Negotiated, stalled, revived and reimagined over a quarter of a century, the deal represents far more than a technical breakthrough on tariffs. It marks a strategic inflexion point in what could become one of the most consequential partnerships to stabilise an international order that is marked by rapid, uncertain and conflictual transition.

A meeting point with a risk-averse Brussels

The commercial breakthrough did not emerge from a vacuum. It is the result of two drivers – one political and the other geopolitical. First, in an example of how summit diplomacy does pay off, both sides have been engaging at the highest level for the last 10 years, beginning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels in 2016.

The unprecedented frequency of meetings, which included the India-EU leaders' summit in 2021, allowed for a frank exchange of perspectives that built trust and enabled the pursuit of the highest-hanging fruit despite repeated failures since 2007. This mutual political trust mattered at home because it empowered the Indian and European leadership to invest significant personal and political capital to overcome a variety of internal obstacles and risks.

The Modi government worked with, rather than against or around, various domestic stakeholders and their protectionist impulses to explain why the EU offers a qualitatively different economic partner than next-door China. Previous trade deals with the United Kingdom or Australia helped create momentum, assess roadblocks and build industry support. And on the EU side, the tandem between the Commission and the Council laid clear political guidelines that pushed the otherwise risk-averse Brussels bureaucracy to move beyond rigid free trade agreement templates. With this political direction, negotiators finally found common ground.

> The economic deal opens up avenues for India and the European Union (EU) to stabilise the international order

Second, and more importantly, this deal is driven by the urgency of responding to an international system that is shaking, if not collapsing. The agreement is the most tangible product of the extraordinary geopolitical churn unleashed by U.S. President Donald Trump's commercial offensives, but also the continued coercion and economic security threats posed by China and Russia.

The larger picture

Driven by political and geopolitical factors, the resulting economic agreement is best understood not as the culmination of a mere trade negotiation but also as the foundation of a broader EU-India strategic realignment. But trade alone will not sustain this convergence. If the India-EU partnership remains confined to tariffs and market access, it risks becoming a tactical adjustment rather than a durable strategic shift.

To avoid this fate, New Delhi and Brussels must now move quickly to flesh out the other dimensions of their strategic partnership enunciated during last week's summit, most notably in defence and security, energy, technology and mobility.

In defence and security, the logic for deeper cooperation is increasingly compelling. India and the EU have a stake in ensuring maritime stability and freedom of navigation. There are growing opportunities for joint military exercises, information sharing, and the development of security capacity among Indo-Pacific states. The agreement reflects an interest in moving beyond ad hoc engagement toward institutionalised cooperation, coupling defence industrial interests with financing, trade and technology priorities.

Energy cooperation is equally critical. Europe's push for energy diversification and decarbonisation intersects with India's need for affordable, scalable, and sustainable energy solutions. Joint investment in green hydrogen, renewable technologies, and resilient energy infrastructure could anchor long-term interdependence while advancing shared climate goals.

Technology represents perhaps the most consequential frontier as global technology governance fragments along geopolitical lines. India and the EU have an opportunity to shape standards and norms that reflect values without stifling innovation. Cooperation on semiconductors, digital public infrastructure, artificial intelligence and data governance could reduce mutual vulnerabilities and enhance strategic autonomy on both sides.

Finally, the mobility of students, researchers and skilled workers will be essential to translating political alignment into societal and economic depth.

Addressing long-standing frictions over visas and professional recognition would not only strengthen people-to-people ties but also support innovation ecosystems across both partners.

Taken together, these sectors offer a path toward genuine India-European interdependence. Without such multi-sectoral investment, the current alignment risks remaining contingent on external pressures rather than internalised interests.

Foundation to build on

India and the EU now have a rare opportunity to give practical meaning to their old mantra of multipolarity that dates back to the 2000s. In coordination with other middle powers, New Delhi and Brussels can help deliver growth and security that is rooted in openness, resilience and shared democratic values. This will have to be a partnership that delivers tangible public goods across the Indo-Pacific – to keep China in check – and across the Global South, which seeks reliable development partners.

In an era defined less by alliance blocs than by issue-based coalitions, the India-EU convergence – if sustained and deepened – may finally emerge as one of the pillars of a more stable international system.

The economic deal is a start. The strategic test now lies in what follows.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Parliament

Whenever the Bharatiya Janata Party government is on a sticky wicket, it resorts to certain 'tactics'. This time it was the bogey of the Opposition 'planning to attack' the Prime Minister in Parliament ("Told PM to avoid LS as Cong. MPs planned an 'unexpected act': Birla", February 6). As the Opposition was armed with important and issues to corner the government on — first, the revelations of a former Army Chief in his book on the India-China conflict of 2020, and second, the rights of India in the trade deal with the United States even at the cost of India's long-standing relationship with Russia, and the welfare of Indian farmers and local manufacturers — the ruling party's game plan was quite evident.

Can the Prime Minister miss a session in Parliament on an important occasion when the entire nation is under his command?

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

The BJP in Tamil Nadu

The article, "Why the BJP struggles in Tamil Nadu (Opinion page – 'State of Play', February 4), was a neat prognosis of the failure of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Tamil Nadu. The observation that there is a shift from the Bhakti movement to the self-respect movement which has been anti-Brahmanical and hostile to Brahmin rituals and Sanskrit modes of worship is pertinent. Another reason is that the BJP is looked upon as an upper-caste party and cannot replace the Dravidian parties which stand by the oppressed.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Yedapally police station head constable Mustaq Ahmed shows the place where Pandurag Baburao Kondamangale dropped his six-year-old daughter into the waters of the Nizam Sagar distributary canal at ARP camp in Nizamabad district. RAMAKRISHNA G.

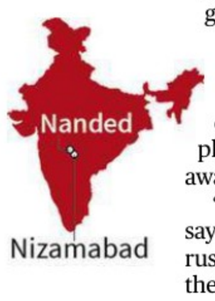
A panchayat dream, a daughter's murder

On January 29, a girl's body was found in the Nizam Sagar distributary canal in Telangana's Nizamabad. The police say the girl's father killed her, his firstborn, so that his wife could contest the panchayat election. Under Maharashtra's rules, candidates with more than two children cannot contest local elections. **Marri Ramu** travels to Nizamabad and Nanded to trace the sequence of the tragedy

On the afternoon of January 29, Mustaq Ahmed, head constable of the Yedapally police station in Telangana's Nizamabad, and Mohan, a constable, were questioning residents about a land dispute, when they received a call informing them that a girl had been washed away in the Nizam Sagar distributary canal. The waterway ran just a stone's throw from the ARP camp in Yedapally mandal, off the Nizamabad-Bodhan National Highway 63.

Ahmed says they immediately kick-started their bike and set off. "When we reached the spot, we saw rescuers laying the body of the girl on the bund side," he recalls.

The girl, sporting a glittery bindi on her forehead, seemed to be about 5-6 years old. Barring a contusion on her forehead, she did not seem to have any other injuries. The policemen observed that unlike in most drowning incidents they had probed, the body showed no signs of bloating. "She had died just a few minutes earlier. We felt guilty that we could not save her," Ahmed says.



The duo made some quick inquiries. They found that an 18-year-old man, P. Pawan Kalyan, was standing near the small bridge over the canal and speaking to a friend on the phone when he noticed the girl being swept away in the canal.

"Kalyan said he shouted for help," Ahmed says. "Venkatesh, an auto driver who was nearby, rushed to the spot on hearing him yell. By then, the girl had apparently been swept further away."

Venkatesh did not give up. He rode his bike along the bund's mud road and, after nearly 300 metres, jumped into the canal's 3-foot-deep stream near a small gate. He caught the girl and pulled her out with the help of others. She was unresponsive and had no pulse.

The girl with the bindi

The police began to make inquiries to identify the girl. They sent notices to all the police stations under the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate to see if any complaints had been filed about missing girls, but none came up. They took the body to the Nizamabad Government Hospital. Then, they registered a case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which mandates that the police inquire and report on cases of suicide, homicide, or suspicious, unnatural deaths.

While checking with nearby police stations, the investigators also shared the girl's pictures and an audio message on WhatsApp groups, seeking help to establish her identity. Three days passed with no leads. The investigation seemed to have hit a dead end – until constable Sudheer received a call that provided crucial details.

Sudheer was the driver for the circle inspector, D. Vijay Babu, who was investigating the case. The caller, a close relative from Mukhed, a taluq headquarters in Nanded district, Maharashtra, contacted Sudheer claiming he knew the girl. He sent a photo, which showed a child who looked exactly like the one found in the canal, wearing the same clothes. The relative said the girl was from Mukhed, nearly 50 kilometres from Bodhan, and had been reported missing. He added that villagers were worried and had been discussing her disappearance.

> Every time I pass by this canal, the horrible image flashes in my mind. For me and others of the village who saw it, we just can't shake it off
>
> **P. VINOD KUMAR**
> Complainant

The Bodhan police contacted the girl's family. A few village elders and members of the family, including the girl's mother Ankita, arrived in Bodhan and identified the body. The girl was Prachi, the older of the twin daughters of a hair salon owner, Pandurag Baburao Kondamangale. After forensic doctors performed an autopsy, which confirmed that she had died due to drowning, the police handed the body over to the family. As they prepared to return to Maharashtra, the Yedapally police began their work.

Alone at a canal

Although the autopsy confirmed drowning as the cause of death, the police remained puzzled as to how the girl had ended up at the canal alone.

The ARP camp, often mistaken by many for a defence or research facility, is a cluster of three villages. These grew around the Nizam Sugar Factory, established decades ago to process locally grown sugarcane. With irrigation from the factory's canals, even remote areas are covered with lush green fields of paddy and other crops. The canal's side bunds – overgrown with bushes and flanked by sprawling paddy fields – conceal the water distributary that runs just a few feet away, parallel to the road. It was strange for a girl of her age to have just wandered off there.

"We believed that someone had taken her up to the canal. Whether she slipped into the water or was pushed was the question," says Bodhan Assistant Commissioner of Police, P. Srinivas.

The investigators began probing the case. When they found a lead, they brought Kondamangale to Bodhan. He said that his daughter had gone missing from January 29 and that he had approached the local police to trace her. Circle inspector Vijay quotes him saying, "We were hoping she would come home sooner or later."

Despite the incessant probing, Kondamangale stuck to his story. That is when, the inspector says, the police finally presented the lead they had – CCTV footage. The video showed Kondamangale riding his bike in Bodhan with his daughter Prachi sitting pillion. Realising that his cover was blown, Kondamangale allegedly began to confess to his crime.

The house of the accused at Kerur village, Maharashtra. RAMAKRISHNA G.

According to the investigators, Kondamangale left his salon with his daughter seated on the two-wheeler. Hours later, they reached the ARP camp. "He stopped at a secluded place. He carried the girl in his arms and walked towards the canal. He stood on the canal's edge and dropped her into the water," Vijay Babu says.

The police say they were horrified that Kondamangale had taken his own daughter's life. The motive, however, was so shocking that they could hardly believe it. "He said he or his wife wanted to contest the panchayat (local body) elections. But the two-child rule of the Maharashtra government was a stumbling block for them because they had three children: twin daughters and a 3-year-old son," says Nizamabad Police Commissioner, Sai Chaitanya.

The 2-child rule for panchayat elections was imposed by various State governments in the early 1990s, primarily as a population control measure. It was put in place to ensure accountability among local representatives.

"To reach his political ambition, Kondamangale decided to kill one of his children and chose Prachi," the Commissioner says. Although Kondamangale had allegedly admitted to the crime, investigators still had several loose ends to tie up. They began probing his background, starting from his village of Kerur, 8 km from Mukhed.

Hungry for the post

Kerur's nearly 3,000 residents are solely dependent on agriculture. The village has narrow streets, lined mostly with thatched-roof houses and a few concrete ones, and is surrounded by vast tracts of dry land. Some streets are dirty with overflowing drainage water, while a few have tiled pathways. The villagers claim that their sarpanch, 36-year-old Ganesh Ramachandra Shinde, was doing his bit to develop the village.

Panchayat elections are scheduled to be held in the village in the next 6 months. While, according to a lottery system, Kerur was under the 'open category' 5 years ago, which means that the seat for the sarpanch is not reserved for any specific social category, this time it is reserved for persons from Other Backward Classes (women). Kondamangale, who runs the hair salon in a rented commercial complex on the main road, lives in a rented house in Baralinaka of Mukhed. Since his family belongs to the OBC category, his wife was eligible to contest for the sarpanch post.

The police are not sure how the salon owner suddenly decided to enter politics. "At some point, Kondamangale began aspiring for either himself or his wife to become the sarpanch. He confessed that the sitting sarpanch, Shinde, was ready to support him if he chose to contest this election," Vijay Babu says.

As per Kondamangale's admission before the police, Shinde used to keep dropping by his salon and sometimes his house. He encouraged Kondamangale to field his wife as a candidate. "The second accused, Shinde, said he would spend ₹15 lakh for this and would take care of any problems and asked the first accused, Kondamangale, not to reveal his name to anyone," states the remand report submitted to the local court. Bolstered by Shinde's support, Kondamangale felt he was inching closer to the seat of sarpanch. The only roadblock was the 2-child rule.

Vijay Babu says that initially, Kondamangale confessed he had considered giving up his 3-year-old son for adoption to one of his uncles. Since he had not obtained a birth certificate for the child, he thought this would allow him to bypass the two-child norm. But he dropped the idea, as hospital records listed his wife as the child's mother, which, he believed, could cause problems for their political ambitions.

"He admitted during the interrogation that he and his relative went to the Mukhed municipal office to verify if he could give his son up for adoption. They even went to Pune to seek clarifications on the matter. We are verifying his statements," says Vijay Babu. "Realising that the adoption plan was not the solution, he began exploring what other act could make him or his wife sarpanch and finally decided to kill one of his children." The police say that inquiries with Ankita and other family members suggested that Kondamangale was particularly fond of Prachi, and she of him, which makes the case all the more perplexing for them.

Prachi's twin sister, younger by just a few minutes, reportedly did not like sitting pillion on the bike. On January 29, the police say, Prachi did not go to school. When she arrived at the salon a little before noon, her father told her he would take her on a long ride and made her sit pillion on the bike. "He masked his face with a towel and left his mobile phone at the salon. This indicates that the murder was premeditated," Vijay Babu says.

Kondamangale started from Mukhed towards Bodhan. Entering the Yedapally area, he followed the Nizam Sagar distributary canal, stopped at an isolated point, and dropped her into the water. "While she was screaming 'Papa, Papa,' he did not look back. He returned to the main road and then proceeded towards Maharashtra," reads a sentence in the remand report.

> He masked his face with a towel and left his mobile phone at the salon. This indicates that the murder was premeditated
>
> **VIJAY BABU**
> Circle Inspector

When Ankita asked about the whereabouts of her child, Kondamangale apparently led her to believe that he had gone out on work and was not sure where she was. The couple approached the local police, requesting them to trace her.

The investigators believe that the accused deliberately did not lodge a formal complaint with the local police. "Had he done that, a case would have been registered and the police would have immediately found out about his ghastly act," says an investigator.

On February 2, the police revised the charges to Sections 140(1) (kidnapping), 103(1) (murder), and 238 (destruction of evidence, providing false information) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. They arrested the two accused and remanded them to judicial custody.

Ankita, her daughter, and son have shifted to their relative's house.

Support for the sarpanch

In Kerur, Shinde enjoys a lot of support. Several villagers describe him as "innocent" and demand that he be set free immediately. When Yedapally sub-inspector, M. Rama, went to the village, the villagers gheraoed her, raising slogans that their sarpanch had been falsely implicated in the case.

"In the few years, our village, under the leadership of Shinde, has seen some progress. New drainage lines were laid. We are getting tiled internal roads," says Venkat Shinde, a resident.

Another resident of the village, Balaji, says, "We are not sure why Kondamangale killed his child. But we know that our sarpanch is not the type to abet a crime."

Rajesh of Kerur, who runs a bookstore at Mukhed, feels, "Our villagers were already teasing Pandurag by referring to him as sarpanch saab whenever they met him. May be that went to his head and he resorted to this extreme step of killing Prachi."

Some residents are upset that the case has tarnished the name of the village. Hanmant Baliram Shinde says, "This case is showing our entire village in poor light even though we did not do anything wrong."

For the ARP camp sarpanch, P. Vinod Kumar, the complainant in the case, Prachi's death is the most disturbing incident of his life. "Every time I pass by this canal, the horrible image flashes in my mind. For me and others of the village who saw it, we just can't shake it off," he says.

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From Page One

India's oil imports from Russia hit 38-month low

Overall, December 2025 saw India diversifying its oil imports in a dynamic manner, sourcing crude oil from 19 countries, up from 16 countries in December 2024. Among these 19 countries, 10 saw their shares in India's crude oil basket increasing, while nine saw their shares falling.

While Mr. Trump has claimed that India has agreed to stop buying Russian oil and will instead buy more American and Venezuelan oil, officials in the Indian government say that the economics of this decision does not yet make sense.

"The U.S. will export oil from the Gulf Coast, which is about 4.5 to five times farther via ship than Russia is from India," a senior government official told *The Hindu*. "The distance from Venezuela is the same. At the moment, India is getting a discount from Russia on the oil it sells. This, plus the lower shipping distance, means it is much cheaper to import from Russia than from the U.S. or Venezuela."

According to some industry estimates, the cost of shipping oil from Venezuela or the U.S. Gulf Coast could be as high as $4.5 a barrel, compared to a maximum of $1 a barrel from the West Asia.

Estimating the cost of transporting oil from Russia is difficult as different companies work out separate deals with non-sanctioned entities in Russia.

The data shows that Indian companies paid an average of $506.7 per tonne for oil from the U.S., while they paid $469.4 per tonne for oil from Russia in December 2025. India did not import Venezuelan oil in December 2025.

According to a rough analysis by the State Bank of India, if India were to entirely switch away from Russian oil and replace it with oil from Venezuela, this choice would be commercially viable if the Venezuelan crude is bought at a discount of $10 to $12 a barrel due to its sourness.

Suicide blast at Shia mosque in Pak. kills 31

No group immediately claimed responsibility, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said those behind the blast would be found and brought to justice.

The attack was the deadliest in the Pakistani capital since September 2008, when 60 people were killed in a suicide truck bomb blast that destroyed part of the five-star Marriott hotel.

Videos shared on social media showed several bodies lying near the mosque's front gate, with people and debris also strewn across the red-carpeted prayer hall.

'A heinous crime'

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar branded the attack "a heinous crime against humanity and a blatant violation of Islamic principles".

"Pakistan stands united against terrorism in all its forms," he said in a post on X.

The attack comes as Pakistan's security forces battle intensifying insurgencies in southern and northern provinces that border Afghanistan.

Pakistan is a Sunni-majority nation but Shias make up between 10 and 15% of the population and have been targeted in attacks throughout the region in the past.

Islamabad has said separatist armed groups in southern Balochistan, and the Pakistani Taliban and other Islamist militants in northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, near Islamabad, have used Afghan territory as a safe haven from which to launch attacks.

Afghanistan's Taliban government has repeatedly denied Pakistan's accusations.

Bilateral relations have plummeted, with forces from both sides regularly clashing along the border.

Protests flare in Manipur over Kuki-Zo MLAs in govt.

Effigies of legislators who have joined the new govt. burnt during a rally; people in Churachandpur district and Moreh town observe a 24-hour shutdown called by the Kuki Students' Organisation

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

REMEMBRANCE
Mass Public Rally Opposing the Participation of Kuki-Zo MLAs
in the Formation of the Manipur Popular Government

Fiery dissent: The Kuki Women's Human Rights Organisation holds a protest against the participation of Kuki-Zo MLAs in the formation of the Manipur government, in Churachandpur on Friday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

Kuki-Zo groups continued to protest for the second day on Friday in Manipur's hill districts against three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislators from the community who have joined the State's new government.

Deputy Chief Minister Nemcha Kipgen, former Director-General of Police L. M. Khaute and Ngursanglur Sanate are facing a social boycott for joining the government headed by Yumnam Khemchand Singh. Protesters burnt their effigies at a public rally in Churachandpur. People across Churachandpur district and other Kuki-Zo areas, including Moreh town bordering Myanmar, observed a 24-hour shutdown called by the Kuki Students' Organisation.

Friday's peaceful shutdown followed a dawn-to-dusk bandh enforced by seven organisations on Thursday, which was marked by violence and arson. The Kuki-Zo Council lauded the people for participating in the rallies.

"The overwhelming participation of the people reflects the deep anguish, anger, and collective rejection of the actions of those Kuki-Zo MLAs who have chosen to join the formation of the Manipur government, in complete disregard of the people's sentiments, collective resolutions, and the immense suffering endured by our community," the organisation said in a statement.

In Churachandpur district's B. Vengnom village, locals felicitated four other Kuki-Zo MLAs for not "betraying" the community by joining the State government. Manipur has 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs, seven of them belonging to the BJP.

A majority of the Kuki-Zos want the MLAs from the community not to join the Manipur government unless the Centre accedes to their demand of creating a Union Territory-like separate administration.

Warning against harm

As the shutdown hit normal life in other Kuki-Zo areas, the Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (ITAC) of Pherzawl and Jiribam districts issued a warning against any attempt to intimidate or cause harm to Mr. Sanate, the MLA representing the Tipaimukh constituency.

"Ngursanglur Sanate is the legitimate and constitutional representative of the ITAC jurisdictional area... Any attempt to demean, intimidate, threaten or cause harm to Ngursanglur Sanate in any manner, as well as vandalisation, destruction, or stealing and robbing of his properties, shall be viewed as deliberately disrespecting the collective stand of the tribal populace of Pherzawl and Jiribam areas," the organisation said in a statement.

AAP leader shot dead; Opposition slams Punjab govt.

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Lucky Oberoi

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Satwinderpal Singh alias Lucky Oberoi was allegedly shot dead by two unidentified assailants in Punjab's Jalandhar on Friday, even as the Opposition parties took a dig at the AAP government over the poor law and order situation in the State.

The police said the incident took place around 8 a.m. when two unidentified assailants on a scooter opened fire at 43-year-old Lucky outside Gurudwara Singh Sabha in the Model Town area. He was leaving after offering prayers at the gurudwara. Mr. Oberoi, who was in charge of a ward in Jalandhar Cantonment, was in a special utility vehicle when the assailants opened fire at him.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Investigation), Jalandhar, Manpreet Singh said "The incident occurred around 8 a.m. Lucky was on his way after offering prayers at the gurdwara when two unidentified assailants shot at him. He was taken to a hospital in an unconscious state for treatment."

A doctor at the private hospital where Lucky was admitted told the pressperson that an examination revealed he had been fired upon 8-9 times.

Punjab Director-General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav visited Jalandhar and held a high-level meeting with senior police officers to review the investigation.

Taking a dig at the government, State Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress said: "Law and order in Punjab has collapsed under Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's watch. The shocking daylight murder of AAP leader Lucky Oberoi outside a gurudwara in Jalandhar exposes the grim reality: if even ruling party leaders are not safe, what hope remains for ordinary citizens?"

"Punjab today is gripped by fear, gang violence, and administrative paralysis while the AAP government remains busy with PR and excuses. The Chief Minister must answer: who is responsible for this complete breakdown?" he said.

Meghalaya mine blast toll touches 25; two owners arrested, rescue operations continue

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Rescue operations under way at the illegal rat-hole coal mine blast site in East Jaintia Hills district on Friday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

The death toll in Thursday's explosion in an illegal rat-hole coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills district rose to 25 on Friday.

Police and personnel of disaster response forces had recovered 18 bodies from the disaster site in the Mynsyngat Thangsko area on Thursday. The spot is about 25 km from the district headquarters, Khliehriat, and takes about three hours to reach in a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

The district's Superintendent of Police, Vikash Kumar, said four more bodies were recovered from the mine. While two bodies, taken away by family members before the police reached the site, were returned, another person died of burn injuries at a hospital.

"The victims are from Assam, Meghalaya, and Nepal. We have rescued nine people, who are undergoing treatment," he said, adding that a dozen of them have been identified.

He said police have not been able to ascertain how many people were inside the mine at the time of the blast, as the injured were not in a position to speak. The police, however, hope to extract information from two arrested owners of the mine, where mining operations were being carried out illegally.

On Friday morning, Cabinet Ministers Lakhmen Rymbui and Wailadmiki Shylla reached Khliehriat from Shillong, to oversee the rescue and investigation efforts.

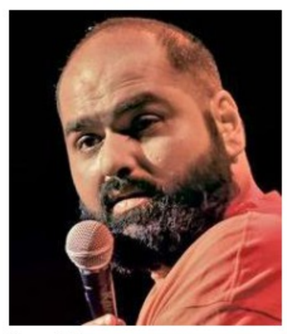
Officials from the State's Mining Department were sent to find out how the mine was being operated despite a blanket ban on the hazardous rat-hole method by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) since April 2014.

Strict crackdown: CM

In Shillong, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the State government has been cracking down on illegal mining operations and vowed action against those responsible for the accident. "Illegal mining will not be tolerated, as we have initiated the process of scientific mining," he said.

Mr. Sangma said the police have registered more than 1,000 cases related to illegal mining in recent years, and hundreds have been charge-sheeted. "Enforcement has continued despite challenges posed by difficult terrain and manpower constraints," he said. He also said satellite imagery and drones were being used to detect illegal mining activity across the State.

Ricky Andrew J. Syngkon, one of Meghalaya's two Lok Sabha members from the Shillong constituency, slammed the State government and the Coal Ministry for the deaths. "Rampant illegal coal mining continues in many parts of Meghalaya despite the NGT ban, and numerous fatal incidents in remote areas go unreported," he said.



Kunal Kamra

Kunal Kamra moves High Court against Sahyog portal

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra has moved the Bombay High Court challenging the validity of the government's 'Sahyog' portal which enables the blocking of content posted on social media. He has called it an "unconstitutional and unreasonable" assault on the freedom of speech.

The petition, filed by Mr. Kamra earlier this week, has challenged some of the IT Rules amended in October 2025. "Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules and the Sahyog Portal are also *ex facie* unconstitutional, as they enable the blocking or take-down of information on Internet platforms on wholly vague grounds," the petition, accessed by *The Hindu*, stated.

The Sahyog portal is a centralised online platform used to automate and streamline the issuance of, and compliance with, content take-down notices for "unlawful online content". It was launched in 2024.

"The continued functioning of this portal has a profound and deeply prejudicial impact on the exercise of key fundamental rights of citizens of India. It affects both the ability of the citizens to talk freely and express themselves, and also affects the free flow of information in our democracy," the petition has stated.

Mr. Kamra has sought the suspension of Sahyog portal till the hearing of the petition.

ED files chargesheet in R.G. Kar graft case

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed a chargesheet in connection with allegations of corruption at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, naming former hospital principal Sandip Ghosh.

After the rape and murder of a doctor inside the hospital premises in 2024, the ED began investigating alleged corruption at the institution. Mr. Ghosh, who is currently in judicial custody, was arrested for his role in the corruption.

The ED has filed a Prosecution Complaint against Mr. Ghosh and three other accused entities in a money laundering case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002.

$120 mn committed to Chabahar port in Iran completely paid: Centre

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government's statement indicates it will be unable to manage Chabahar port unless the U.S. withdraws sanctions. GETTY IMAGES

The government on Friday told Parliament that it has completely paid up its commitment of $120 million for Chabahar port, well before the U.S. sanctions waiver runs out in April 2026.

Iran's Ambassador to India, however, said that the government has not so far conveyed its plans for the future of the port, even as Opposition MP Manish Tewari accused the government of acting prematurely to "opt out" of the port deal.

The government's statement, that comes days after it ended its annual Budget allocation for Chabahar port, indicates it will be unable to manage the port unless the U.S. withdraws sanctions. Rather than risk a drawn-out process later, the government appears to have disbursed its total standing commitment, made in a 10-year MoU with Iran, signed in May 2024.

"India has fulfilled its commitment of contributing $120 million for the procurement of port equipment," the Ministry of External Affairs said in its response to a query in the Lok Sabha.

"Pursuant to discussions with the U.S. side, the [U.S.] issued guidance extending the conditional sanctions waiver until 26 April 2026. The Government of India remains engaged with all concerned in order to address the implications of these developments," the MEA said.

Mr. Tewari accused the government of "officially giving up" on plans for the warm-water port on Iran's south-eastern coast, which India began to develop in 2003.

"India may have acted prematurely by opting out of the Chabahar Port project that would have been an important catalyst even in the re-engagement with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, in addition to keeping the doors to Central Asia open," he told *The Hindu*.

Iranian Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali said on Friday that he believes Delhi would like to try to resolve the issue without giving up its interest in Chabahar. India has been using the port for access to Afghanistan, to transport humanitarian aid and food supplies.

SC rejects Jan Suraaj's petition challenging Bihar Assembly polls

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday chastised former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party, which sought the setting aside of the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, that political parties cannot use the judicial platform as an avenue to gain popularity after facing defeat at the ballot box.

The party has accused the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar of splurging ₹15,600 crore as "dole" in violation of the Model Code of Conduct, creating a serious dent in the coffers of a State whose finances are already tight.

"How many votes did your political party get in the election? People reject you, and now you use the judicial platform to get popularity," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, addressed senior advocate C.U. Singh, for Jan Suraaj Party. The petitioner-party alleged corruption on the part of the State government for transferring ₹10,000 each to women under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana immediately after the announcement of the 2025 Assembly poll schedule.

Chief Justice Kant said the court was meaning to "seriously examine" the distribution of irrational freebies, but it did not want to be seen to do so at the behest of a party which has lost the elections.

The court allowed the party to withdraw the plea and gave it liberty to approach the Patna High Court, saying the issue pertained to only one State.

Opposition members protest in the Well as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducts proceedings on Friday. SANSAD TV

Cannot run such a House, says Birla as protests continue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha failed to function on Friday as the Opposition kept up its protests on the Indo-U.S. trade deal and over excerpts from an unpublished book by former Army chief General M.M. Naravane (retd) on the 2020 face-off with China.

The House proceedings were adjourned first till noon and then for the day as the Opposition protests continued unabated.

It was the second day when the House could not take up a discussion on the Union Budget presented on February 1.

As soon as the House convened for the day, many Opposition members trooped into the Well, shouting slogans and displaying placards.

Speaker Om Birla commented that he cannot run "such a House". Stating that 19 hours and 13 minutes had been wasted due to disruptions in the current session, he said members were disrespecting the House. He said many MPs had questions lined up.

With the Opposition unrelenting, Mr. Birla then adjourned the House till noon.

When the House met again, senior MP Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was in the chair, urged the Opposition members to take their seats and put down placards. As Opposition members refused to relent, he adjourned the House till Monday.

Modi signed a 'trap deal' on U.S. pressure: Congress

Kharge says PM surrendered before Trump because of Epstein files, sacrificed India's farmers, and has no courage to face Opposition queries; MPs say govt. failed to share details of trade agreement

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Demanding answers: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, suspended Lok Sabha MPs Hibi Eden, Dean Kuriakose, Manickam Tagore, and other Opposition MPs protest on Parliament premises on Friday. ANI

Protesting against the Narendra Modi government for not sharing details of the India-U.S. trade deal, the Congress on Friday brought a poster that read "Trap Deal", to the main entrance of the Parliament complex.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge later attacked the government over the trade deal, saying U.S. President Donald Trump pressured Mr. Modi into signing it because of the Epstein files [documents pertaining to late U.S. financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein].

"The truth is that over the past few days, Narendra Modi has been troubled because matters related to him have come up in the Epstein files. After that, Narendra Modi surrendered before Trump and struck a trade deal. He sacrificed the country's farmers. Modi is making our people poor and making America's farmers rich," Mr. Kharge told reporters while reacting to the Prime Minister's reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. On Thursday, Mr. Modi replied to the Motion of Thanks in the Rajya Sabha in which he mounted a scathing attack on the Congress. However, he skipped the customary reply to the Motion of Thanks in the Lower House because of repeated disruptions by the Opposition members.

The Congress chief said Mr. Modi did not have the courage to answer the questions posed to him. The government did not want to run the House in a democratic manner, Mr. Kharge said.

In the Lok Sabha as protests continued over various issues, MPs from the Congress and some other Opposition parties staged a protest at the main entrance to the Parliament House complex over the trade agreement with the U.S., the controversy surrounding former Army chief General M.M. Naravane's unpublished memoir and the suspension of eight MPs.

As soon as the Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, the Opposition MPs gathered near the Makar Dwar of Parliament and raised slogans.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the MPs suspended for the remainder of the current Budget session of Parliament, and several other members participated in the protest.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at Mr. Modi by raising the slogan and telling reporters, "*jo uchit samjho woh karo* [do whatever you deem appropriate]". The reference is from General Naravane's memoir.

Mizoram MP says not allowed to raise defence land scam

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

K. Vanlalvena

A Mizo National Front (MNF) member in the Rajya Sabha said on Friday that he had not been allowed for the past week to raise an alleged corruption worth ₹187.90 crore in the procurement of private land for defence purposes near the Lengpui airport in Mizoram.

K. Vanlalvena, Mizoram's lone representative in the Upper House, told *The Hindu* that since the beginning of the Budget Session, he had been submitting Zero Hour notices to the Rajya Sabha Chairman seeking to raise the issue, but they had not been admitted.

He stated that he had written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and that his party had also filed a criminal complaint with the Chief Vigilance Officer of the Government of Mizoram, demanding a probe by the Central investigating agencies.

Detailing the allegations, the MP said private land near Lengpui Airport and Sihphir village near Aizawl had been acquired by the State government for installation of air defence systems by the Indian Air Force (IAF) at "exorbitant rates", in violation of the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

In his letter to Mr. Shah, the MP alleged that key safeguards under the act – including publication of acquisition notifications in local newspapers, consultation with village councils, and conduct of social impact assessment studies – were bypassed. "As a result, public money amounting to over ₹2187.90 crore appears to have been laundered through questionable intermediaries...," he said in the letter. "Accountability must be ensured, and those responsible for this gross violation of law and trust must be brought to justice," he added.

CPI(M) leader moves Right to Disconnect Bill in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A.A. Rahim

In a bid to address the worsening work-life balance and rising mental health concerns, CPI(M) Rajya Sabha member A.A. Rahim on Friday introduced the Right to Disconnect Bill, which seeks to guarantee employees the right to disengage from work-related communication outside official working hours.

Post-lunch sessions in both Houses of Parliament are reserved for Private Member's Bills.

Mr. Rahim said the Bill arose from a long-standing demand to curb the "always-on" digital work culture that has taken a toll on India's youth. Work-related emails, messages, and calls increasingly spill far beyond office hours, intruding into weekends, public holidays, and even sanctioned leave.

"Young professionals, particularly those in the IT, platform, and service sectors, have been disproportionately affected, facing constant pressure to remain available in the absence of clear legal protections," he said.

The Bill seeks to formally recognise employees' right to personal time, mental rest, and recuperation. It proposes that workers should not be obliged to respond to work-related communication after office hours and should not face any adverse consequences – such as disciplinary action, poor performance appraisals, or denial of career opportunities – for exercising this right.

In 2017, the French parliament enacted a similar law requiring companies with over 50 employees to negotiate policies enabling workers to ignore digital communication after hours.

Mr. Rahim's Bill places statutory obligations on employers. Companies would be required to draft and implement a comprehensive Right to Disconnect policy in consultation with employee representatives or recognised trade unions. Such a policy would define working hours, permissible after-hours communication, emergency protocols, grievance redress mechanisms, and measures to promote digital wellness and mental health in the workplace.

EC directives ignored, disabled people made to wait in queue for SIR hearings in Bengal

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

An elderly person being assisted as he arrives at a centre to attend a hearing under the SIR exercise in West Bengal. PTI

Thirty-nine-year-old Arpita Banerjee, a resident of Baranagar in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district, has been battling multiple health problems since childhood, exacerbated by neurological disorders.

Born in November 1987, Ms. Banerjee had been on the earlier 2025 voter list and was included in the post-special intensive revision (SIR) draft electoral rolls published in December last year. Soon after, however, she received a notice to attend a hearing over a "logical discrepancy" arising from a mismatch in the spelling of the surname "Banerjee" in her and her father's records.

Her 76-year-old father, a small-time businessman, accompanied her to the hearing, where they had to wait for a good three hours before officials clicked her photograph and accepted her disability certificate as documentary evidence, as mandated under the SIR rules. The experience, however, has left her traumatised.

Similar difficulties have been reported by other voters with disabilities. Lokman Sheikh, a person with visual disability from Raghunathganj Assembly Constituency under Murshidabad district, had to wait in the queue during his hearing, with no separate facility for people like him.

According to Election Commission data, West Bengal had 5,07,089 registered voters with disabilities in the 2024 electoral rolls used for the Lok Sabha election. The EC provides a home voting facility for voters with disabilities.

During the SIR in West Bengal, the EC issued directives on January 7, exempting certain categories of voters, including persons with disabilities, from physical hearings. The directive stated that disabled electors who submit specific requests to the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) or Assistant EROs, either directly or through family members, may not be called for hearings. If notices had already been issued, officials were instructed to contact such voters by phone and conduct verification at their homes.

However, activists say the situation on the ground is starkly different, largely due to the short notice period. "Most voters are being asked to appear within two days or even the very next day. As people are already anxious and under great stress, they are not taking any chances and are rushing for hearings despite great hardships," said Shampa Sengupta, a Kolkata-based disability rights activist.

A senior EC official from West Bengal told *The Hindu* that it was the responsibility of booth-level officers (BLOs) to process and facilitate exemption requests, as they are local residents familiar with families in the area.

V. Muralidharan, general secretary of the National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD), said, "While the EC has robustly implemented home voting for elderly and disabled voters during elections, the same groups face unnecessary harassment during voter roll revisions".

"Many disabled persons have complained of being humiliated and treated in an undignified manner...," he said.

Kashmir will become a part of Pakistan, says Shehbaz Sharif in PoK

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

India has repeated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh shall remain integral parts of the country

Pakistan's civilian and military leadership on Thursday reaffirmed their "unwavering support" for the Kashmiri people, as rallies and demonstrations were held across the country to show solidarity with them.

"The solution to the Jammu-Kashmir dispute is to honour the wishes of the people of Kashmir and the implementation of the UNSC's resolutions," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told Pakistan-occupied Kashmir's (PoK) Assembly in Muzaffarabad as the country observed the "Kashmir Solidarity Day".

Mr. Shehbaz said that he had come to stand in solidarity with "our brothers in Kashmir on behalf of the Pakistani people and the Pakistani leadership".

"Kashmir will become a part of Pakistan," he said.

India has repeatedly told Pakistan that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "was, is and shall forever" remain an integral part of the country.

Mr. Shehbaz claimed that the Kashmir issue was diplomatically "reignited with full force" in the wake of the four-day India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025.

Kerala MP moves private Bill to hold Census every 10 years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Haris Beeran

Kerala MP Haris Beeran has moved a Private Member's Bill in the Rajya Sabha to amend the Census Act, 1948 to insert a provision to conduct at least one Census in the whole of India every 10 years.

Mr. Beeran, who belongs to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), moved the Census Amendment Bill, 2024, arguing that the conduct of a Census for the entire country at a regular interval is a must, as a majority of the country's population would otherwise be unable to access several schemes, benefits, and services.

"Neither the Constitution nor the Census Act, 1948 as it stands today mandates a census to be conducted at a regular interval. However, the census on national level has so far been conducted every ten years," the Bill said.

Six-year delay

The last Population Census in India was conducted in 2011. The next edition, expected in 2021, was initially delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The first phase of the next Census exercise will now start on April 1 and conclude in February 2027, a delay of six years from the regular schedule.

The Amendment Bill said that a "periodical census is a legal imperative for the reason that constitutionally-mandated policies of social justice, which include reservations in electoral constituencies, education and public employments, cannot be pursued effectively without correct population data, particularly caste-wise data". It added that detailed caste-wise data is necessary to avoid and correct wrongful inclusions of undeserving castes and exclusions of deserving castes, and to guard against a few dominant castes in a reserved category crowding out others.

U.P. Police lodge FIR against filmmakers after title controversy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Acting on the directions of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the State Police on Friday lodged a first information report (FIR) against the makers of the upcoming Netflix film *Ghooskhor Pandat* over its title, alleging that the film threatens social harmony and hurts religious and caste sentiments. Producer-director Neeraj Pandey issued a clarification, apologising for the hurt caused and took down the teaser and promotional material.

The FIR was registered at Lucknow's Hazratganj Police Station, following widespread objections to the film's teaser, which recently went viral on social media.

The case names the OTT platform and the film's makers for allegedly attempting to spread social discord and disturb public peace and law and order.

The controversy erupted after a teaser of the film, starring Manoj Bajpayee as a corrupt police officer, was unveiled earlier this week at a Netflix event in Mumbai announcing upcoming titles.

Various groups objected to the pairing of the words "*Pandat*" (Pandit) with "*Ghooskhor*" (bribe-taker), calling it derogatory and offensive.

The issue snowballed amid allegations of bias against Brahmins in the State.

U.P. SIR gets extension, final list to be out in April

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Friday extended for the fourth time the deadline for the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh. The extension was given following a request by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa, the poll body said.

Mr. Rinwa said claims and objections can now be filed until March 6.

Notices can now be issued to electors till March 27, and the final publication date of electoral rolls is April 10.

Out of the 15.44 crore voters in the previous list, 12.55 crore names were retained in the draft list.

INBRIEF

Supreme Court allows minor to end 30-week pregnancy

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed the medical termination of a 30-week-old pregnancy of a minor while noting that a person cannot be compelled to carry her pregnancy to its full term. "What has to be considered in the instant case is the right of the minor child to continue a pregnancy which is *ex facie* illegitimate in as much as she is a minor and has to face this unfortunate situation...of having the pregnancy owing to a relationship that she had," a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan remarked in court. The court highlighted the right to reproductive autonomy of a woman.

Maoist leader, six others killed in Gadchiroli operations

Top Maoist leader Prabhakar and six cadres were killed in the Abujmad region of Gadchiroli in Maharashtra in anti-Maoist operations over the past three days, the police said on Friday. Three women cadres are among the deceased. One police jawan died in the operation, while another was injured. Prabhakar, alias Loketi Chandar Rao, carried a reward of ₹25 lakh on his head. The police have so far recovered three AK-47 rifles, one SLR, and one .303 rifle from the location. The identities of other Maoists have not yet been ascertained. The deceased jawan, Deepak Chinna Madavi (38), hailed from Mandra in Aheri tehsil of the district.

Education and skills are twins and inseparable: PM

Maintaining balance between the two is essential, Modi tells students during 'Pariksha pe Charcha'; he says students must choose study patterns according to their needs but must be open to changes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Education and skills are inseparable, like twins, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told exam-bound students during a *Pariksha pe Charcha* interaction in New Delhi on Friday.

Mr. Modi spoke with students from across the country at his residence during the ninth edition of the event, taking questions about challenges in balancing study patterns, preparations for board exams and competitive exams among others.

In its first episode, he spoke with students from cities such as Devmogra, Coimbatore, Raipur, and Guwahati.

Responding to a question from a student on technology and robotics, Mr. Modi said education and skilling were like "twins, inseparable". He said maintaining a balance between the two was as essential as a balance between eating and sleeping.

Mr. Modi said there were life skills such as discipline, confidence, and adaptability that must be "fully achieved", but professional skills have no such limits. "Professional skills require continuous learning and adaptation to new technologies even at age 40, as advancements in medicine and other fields demand constant updating," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students during the 9th edition of 'Pariksha pe Charcha', in New Delhi on Friday. DPR PMO/ANI

The interaction followed the government's renewed push to synergise education, skilling, and employment, with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing a committee on education, employment, and entrepreneurship.

Mr. Modi asked students about inputs to achieve the government's goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Taking questions from students who faced troubles in choosing from among study patterns, he said the barrage of differing opinions and suggestions would never end "even after becoming a Prime Minister". He said students must choose methods that suit them but remain open to suggestions and adapt.

He spoke about time management and asked teachers not to rush through the syllabus. Responding to questions from a student about how to persevere with studies when the home environment was not conducive, Mr. Modi said, "Comfort is not essential for success." He cited examples of students from difficult backgrounds doing well.

Another student told Mr. Modi about his interest in gaming despite opposition from family members. The Prime Minister said parents might scold children while talking about these sectors, but if students pursue their interests and succeed, parents would be proud.

"This will lead them to give you ideas and interact with your interest areas," he said, adding that students interested in gaming can build games, set up social media accounts, and YouTube channels. He cautioned them against the perils of betting games, noting that the government had banned these.

The Prime Minister took questions from students interested in artificial intelligence, suggesting that such technology should be used to supplement strengths.

RBI plans ₹25,000 compensation for cyberfraud victims

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Sanjay Malhotra

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to introduce a framework to compensate victims of online frauds up to ₹25,000 for losses incurred in small-value fraudulent transactions. The draft guidelines will be issued soon.

Both the victim and the bank will have skin in the game and both will bear 15% of the transaction value. The RBI will pay the remaining from its Depositor Education and Awareness Fund, which amounts to nearly ₹85,000 crore.

For example, if someone has lost ₹50,000 in a fraudulent transaction, 85% of that amount (₹42,500) or ₹25,000, whichever is less, will be paid by the RBI. In case if some one lost ₹20,000, 85% of that amount (₹17,000) or ₹25,000, whichever is less, will be paid. In this case, the victim gets ₹17,000.

For such small-value fraudulent transactions, which constitute 65% of online frauds, no questions will be asked to the victim if she or he has even given an OTP.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said, "We will have a framework for compensation for small frauds. We have observed that while in value, they constitute a small proportion, in terms of numbers, 65% of them have less than ₹50,000 in terms of amount [lost in fraudulent transactions]."

"So as long as they are defrauded, whether on their own accord or anyone's accord, no questions will be asked. An amount of ₹25,000 or 85% of the amount. You will have the details very shortly. We will compensate them as long as it is unintended and that they have lost," the Governor said.

"If he loses the money, no questions asked. We will make checks so it is not kind of mala fide. That is why we have kept the amount very small," Mr. Malhotra added.

14-year-old gang-raped in M.P., four arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

A 14-year-old girl who was returning from school was allegedly abducted and raped by four men in the Mauganj district of Madhya Pradesh, the police said on Friday. All the four accused have been arrested.

According to the police, the incident occurred on Thursday afternoon when the girl, a resident of a village near Mauganj city and a Class 8 student, was returning with her friend.

The 24-year-old prime accused, who was the girl's former senior and known to her, offered them a ride, Mauganj Superintendent of Police Dilip Soni said. "He dropped the friend midway and took the girl to a nearby area and called three of his friends," he said. The men raped her and abandoned her there, the police said.

Home Minister calls for hi-tech solutions to secure J&K border amid UAV threat

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah toured several border outposts in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and underlined the need for "advanced technological solutions" to new challenges posed by the adversary. The International Border (IB) has reportedly seen an increase in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) activity, which are apparently being used to drop weapons on the Indian side.

Mr. Shah addressed Border Security Force (BSF) personnel manning forward posts along the IB in Kathua, Jammu and stressed "constant vigilance by personnel deployed on the frontlines" and the "introduction of modern tools to strengthen border security".

Amit Shah inspects drones at a border outpost area in Jammu on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Emerging challenges driven by advanced technology must be countered with equally advanced technological solutions. The challenges faced some years ago are completely different from those faced today," Mr. Shah said.

Several UAV sightings

More than half a dozen sightings of UAVs have been reported by security agencies in the Jammu region so far this year. The Jammu region has also witnessed five encounters between security forces and terrorists this year. The firefights left one soldier and three terrorists dead.

Mr. Shah also lauded the role of the armed forces during Operation Sindoor in May last year. He said the Jammu frontier destroyed 118 enemy posts and three terror launch pads across the border. "The government and the BSF both share the common objective of keeping the borders secure. Your dedication to remaining constantly vigilant on the frontlines is extremely important," Mr. Shah said.

"Whether it is the Rann of Kutch, the deserts of Rajasthan, or Jammu and Kashmir, I always return after learning from all of you (security personnel) a true sense of dedication to duty," the Minister said.

Centre lays down eligibility criteria for 'deep tech' start-ups in country

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Centre has provided an official definition of what constitutes a "deep tech" start-up in India.

A buzzword until now, the "deep-tech" start-up, according to a gazette notification by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) made public on Thursday, is one that is primarily concerned with producing a solution based on new knowledge/advancements in a scientific or engineering discipline.

What should it do?

It must spend most of its money on research and development (R&D) activities; owns or is in the process of creating significant novel intellectual property (IP) and taking steps to commercialise the same; faces extended development timelines, long gestation periods, high capital and infrastructure requirements, and carries large technical or scientific uncertainty.

To be counted as a deep tech start-up, companies must apply to the DPIIT for certificate.

A start-up – the DPIIT says – is a company that is less than 10 years old or has a turnover less than ₹200 crore.

According to the gazette notification, a deep tech company can consider itself a start-up for as long as 20 years and has a turnover of up to ₹300 crore – indicating the longer runway such companies have and the time it takes to come to fruition.

To be counted as a deep tech start-up, companies must apply to the DPIIT for a certificate.

The DPIIT is the final authority that determines whether a company qualifies as a startup or a deep tech startup. It will decide this based on "guidance" from an Inter-Ministerial Board of Certification, which includes a Joint Secretary, DPIIT (Convener); a representative from the Department of Science and Technology (DST); a representative from the Department of Biotechnology, according to the notification.

The notification also prohibits a defined start-up from investing in activities that are not directly connected to its core mandate of working and creating new knowledge – for instance investing in real estate or "speculative assets", or shares, and securities – unless they are core to the company's knowledge production.

These definitions are important given the Centre's thrust on technology-driven start-ups. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation is the custodian of the ₹1 lakh crore Research and Development Innovation (RDI) Fund that is expected to invest in emerging technology and fund research over seven years. A part of these investments will go to deep tech start-ups.

Earlier this week, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said companies with RDI funds could get financing at concessional rates of around 2%-4% with tenures up to 15 years.

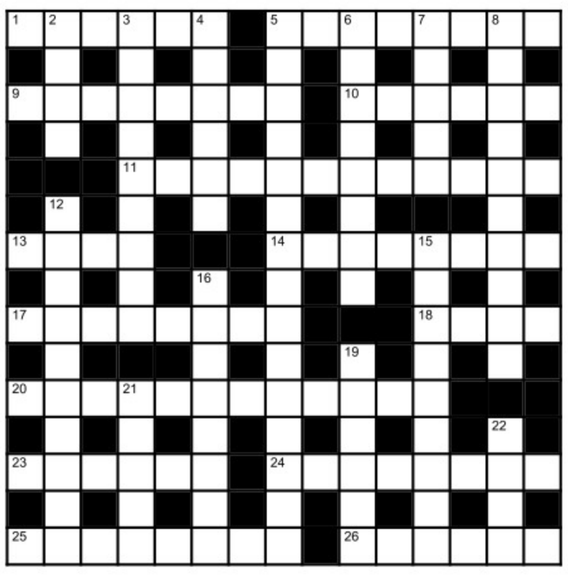
The Principal Scientific Adviser's office prepared a deep tech policy in July 2023, though this has yet to be approved by the Union Cabinet.

TH CROSSWORD + 14711

(set by Avtaar)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



1 Retired officer about to be welcomed into fair on the hour (6)
5 Women's trophy losing base - broken by kid in flannels (8)
9 Swine's struggle to restrain one bold mongrel (4,4)
10 Stretch out after cycling, play to get silver (6)
11 Doctor brings soulless classical fiddlers near the beach (7-5)
13 Cover over pool (4)
14 Yankee firm cornered by famous Confederate soldier (4-4)
17 Maharashtrian city's drive to seize completely bare area (8)
18 Heartless disruptive debauched senior (4)
20 Entertaining compositions of mercurial Dmitriev in empty theatre (12)
23 Mound in Channel Islands that is hot (6)
24 Solicit a report about holding of a musical (8)
25 In a way, I was tense, breaking till (2,2,4)
26 Rising and sinking motion in water body outside El Salvador starting to wane (6)

Down

2 Note in message academician's left for Avtaar (4)
3 Antique church in Oslo rebuilt with tips from Orlando's leading designers (3-6)
4 Hillocks in golf links complex lacking traces of grass in front (6)
5 Operating out of the flat of her mom? (7,4,4)
6 Vehicle carrying container with crown of gold conveyed secretly (8)
7 Remit 2 rupees covering base fee (5)
8 Sweet gruel regularly taken with a roll having hole inside (5,5)
12 Couple of drunks starting to sing outside Grand Hotel giving memorable moments (10)
15 L'il lady in retreat entering Bond vehicle in front for tissue (9)
16 Found guards put marks with holes near entrance to fuming volcano, say (8)
19 Judge standing with latest section, reasons (6)
21 Spinning yarn about absorbing launch of clothes show (5)
22 Well-known singer in lounge belting out number (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6784 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

P	L	A	T	E	G	L	A	S	S	■	H	E	R	B
E	■	L	■	L	■	A	■	H	■	■	■	X	■	R
E	X	T	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	■	T	H	E	A
K	■	O	■	S	■	E	■	T	■	I	■	I	■	N
■	■	■	S	T	A	R	S	P	A	N	G	L	E	D
B	■	I	■	I	■	A	■	U	■	T	■	A	■	Y
R	A	D	I	C	A	L	■	T	S	H	I	R	T	S
E	■	I	■	B	■	■	■	■	E	■	A	■	N	
A	V	O	C	A	D	O	■	M	I	L	I	T	I	A
K	■	P	■	N	■	N	■	A	■	O	■	E	■	P
B	O	A	R	D	M	E	E	T	I	N	G	■	■	
R	■	T	■	S	■	S	■	A	■	G	■	L	■	O
E	C	H	O	■	T	E	N	D	E	R	L	O	I	N
A	■	I	■	■	■	L	■	O	■	U	■	S	■	L
D	U	C	T	■	E	F	F	R	O	N	T	E	R	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	6	8	3	9	5	1	2
1	9	3	2	5	7	6	8	4
8	5	2	4	6	1	9	7	3
2	1	8	9	7	6	4	3	5
5	6	7	3	2	4	8	9	1
9	3	4	1	8	5	2	6	7
7	2	9	6	4	3	1	5	8
3	4	1	5	9	8	7	2	6
6	8	5	7	1	2	3	4	9

FAITH

The tree of dharma

The Mahabharata has 18 parvas. The Kurukshetra war took place for 18 days and the Bhagavad Gita has 18 chapters, pointed out Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan in a discourse. The Mahabharata epic itself may be seen as a tree. It is as if dharma itself took the form of a tree. The seed of this tree is the Anukramanika parva. The roots of this tree are the Pauloma parva and the Asthika parva. The trunk of the tree is the Sambhava parva. The Sabha parva is symbolic of the birds that nest in a tree. The Bhishma parva and the Vana parva are the branches of this tree. The Drona parva represents the leaves and the Karna parva represents the flowers. The Virata parva and the Udhyoga parva are the sap of the tree.

The Salya parva is the fragrance of the flowers that blossom on this tree. The Stri parva is the tip of the branches. The Shanti parva is equivalent to the fruits of this tree of dharma, because the purpose of studying the Mahabharata is to attain *shanti* (peace of mind). The Asvamedha parva is representative of the juice of the fruits. The Ashrama vasa parva is the food of the birds. The Mausala parva is the sound made by the birds in the tree. Those who explain the meaning of the Mahabharata, those who listen to such explanations, and those who adhere to dharma – these people are the protectors of this tree. The 18 parvas of the Mahabharata track the entire story of the Pandavas and their rivals, the Kauravas, from the early years, the treachery of Duryodhana, the exile of the Pandavas, the Kurukshetra war, Lord Krishna's advice to Arjuna through the Gita and Bhishma's teachings through the Vishnu Sahasranama.

INBRIEF

RBI raises loan limits for small businesses, backs REIT loans

India's central bank announced steps to boost credit to small businesses and real estate sector to improve access to formal financing and strengthen last-mile lending, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his policy address. The Reserve Bank of India proposed doubling the limit on collateral-free loans for small enterprises to ₹2 million from ₹1 million. It also said banks would be allowed to lend to real estate investment trusts, subject to prudential safeguards. REUTERS

MRF net profit surges over twofold to ₹692 crore in Q3

Tyre maker MRF on Friday posted a twofold jump in its consolidated net profit to ₹692 crore for the third quarter ended December riding on the back of robust sales to companies and replacement sales. The company had reported a net profit of ₹315 crore for the October-December quarter of the last fiscal. Its revenue from operations increased to ₹8,050 crore in the period under review against ₹7,001 crore in the year-ago period, MRF Ltd. said in a filing. PTI

Bajaj Life eyes pension fund manager, GIFT City licences

Bajaj Life Insurance will seek regulatory approvals to offer Pension Fund Management services for NPS subscribers as well as establish an insurance office in the International Financial Services Centre, GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The expansion is to enhance the ability to offer comprehensive financial solutions, specifically focusing on bridging the retirement gap in India and providing insurance avenues for the global Indian, Bajaj Life Insurance said.

Nifty50 recovers 3.45% post domestic, global events

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India's benchmark Nifty 50 rose 3.45% in the past week, closing the day at 25,693.7 points on Friday, as markets calmed down from sudden surprises like the STT hike, the U.S.-India trade deal and the Anthropic-led AI scare.

The index opened at 25,333.75 points on February 1, 2026 and dropped to 24571.75 points, the week's low, on the very day before closing slightly up at 24,825.45 points. Following this, the index moved to the week's high of 26,341.2 points on February 3 as clarity regarding the U.S. tariffs emerged.

The optimism lasted little time as trade deal details were awaited. The next day, Anthropic's new legal tool feature on Claude AI chatbot spooked U.S. IT stocks such as Alphabet Inc. and Microsoft spurring a sell-off in Indian IT stocks, with the Nifty IT index dipping more than 5% in a single session.

Nifty IT index dipped more than 5% in a single session.

RBI holds policy rate, FY26 inflation outlook seen at 2.1%

Policy rate to remain low for a long time; macroeconomic fundamentals, including external sector, are very strong, says Gov. Malhotra; real GDP growth projections for Q1FY27, Q2 revised upwards

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25% and decided to continue with a neutral stance.

"The MPC noted since the last policy meeting, external headwinds have intensified though successful completion of trade deals augurs well for the economic outlook. Overall, near-term domestic inflation and growth outlook remain positive," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in in his Monetary Policy Statement.

Inflation outlook

"The revised outlook for CPI inflation in Q1:FY27 and Q2 at 4% and 4.2% , respectively, continues to be benign and near the inflation target. The slight upward revision in the inflation outlook is primarily due to an increase in prices of precious metals, which contribute about 60-70 basis points. The underlying inflation continues to be low," he said.

"On growth front, economic activity remains resilient. The growth outlook remains favourable. The MPC is of the view the current policy rate is appropriate. Going forward, the MPC will be guided by the evolving macroeconomic conditions and the outlook based on data from the new series in charting the future course of monetary policy," he added.

Taking various factors into consideration, real GDP growth projections for Q1:FY27 and Q2 are revised upwards to 6.9% and 7%, respectively. The risks are evenly balanced. "We are deferring the projections for the full year to the April policy as the new GDP series will be released later in the month," he said.

Banking on positivity: 'RBI will remain proactive in liquidity management and ensure liquidity in the banking system.' REUTERS

Stating core inflation, barring potential volatility induced by prices of precious metals, is expected to be range-bound, he said geopolitical uncertainty coupled with volatility in energy prices and adverse weather events pose upside risks to inflation.

But the confluence of escalating geopolitical frictions and rising trade tensions is unravelling the existing world economic order, he said.

He said, going forward, the RBI will remain proactive in liquidity management and ensure sufficient liquidity in the banking system to meet the productive needs of the economy and facilitate monetary policy transmission.

"Liquidity management would be pre-emptive with sufficient allowance for unanticipated fluctuations in government balances, and forex intervention."

Mahindra Group to invest ₹15,000 crore in Maharashtra to expand vehicle capacity

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Mahindra Group has announced plans to establish its 'largest' integrated manufacturing facility for automobiles and tractors in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The facility will be developed across 1,500 acre in Vidarbha, complemented by a 150-acre supplier park at Sambhajinagar.

Once fully operational in 2028, the facility will have an annual production capacity of over 5 lakh vehicles and 1 lakh tractors.

The facility will make vehicles across multiple powertrains – ICE, EV and future technologies–for both domestic and global markets. With this, Mahindra is committing an investment of ₹15,000 crore over 10 years in Maharashtra and will acquire over 2,000 acre across three locations to boost its manufacturing footprint.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,580	0.32
US Dollar	90.65	-0.34
Brent oil	68.43	1.47

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2226.40	-10.20
Adani Ports	1550.70	-19.50
Apollo Hosp	7152.50	30.50
Asian Paints	2401.10	-31.00
Axis Bank	1341.60	11.00
Bajaj Auto	9518.50	-128.50
Bajaj Finserv	2024.20	24.10
Bajaj Finance	981.70	16.95
Bharat Elec	429.65	-3.25
Bharti Airtel	2038.40	46.00
Cipla	1330.00	-3.30
Coal India	432.80	0.95
Dr Reddys Lab	1241.20	-3.70
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7177.50	-32.00
Eternal Ltd.	283.55	-3.30
Grasim Ind	2836.90	-27.00
HCL Tech	1593.70	-16.30
HDFC Bank	941.10	-8.60
HDFC Life	703.50	-17.20
Hindalco	942.55	7.10
Hind Unilever	2424.20	69.80
ICICI Bank	1406.10	9.60
IntGlobeAvi	4909.40	-22.80
Infosys	1507.10	-13.10
ITC	325.80	15.60
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	268.10	-1.85
JSW Steel	1236.20	-3.60
Kotak Bank	422.35	13.60
L&T	4068.10	4.80
M&M	3578.00	6.00
Maruti Suzuki	14997.00	-62.00
Max Healthcare	1039.85	-0.95
NestleIndia	1303.30	-0.20
NTPC	365.05	-1.95
ONGC	268.95	-0.25
PowerGrid Corp	292.75	3.40
Reliance Ind	1450.80	7.40
SBI Life	1996.70	-21.10
State Bank	1066.40	-7.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1002.50	10.50
Sun Pharma	1695.10	-7.50
TataConsumerProduct	1159.30	3.40
Tata Steel	197.06	-0.70
TCS	2941.60	-49.90
Tech Mahindra	1619.90	-26.30
Titan	4141.00	43.40
Tata Motors PV	369.50	-4.65
Trent Ltd.	4113.80	-17.50
UltraTech Cement	12722.00	-51.00
Wipro	230.72	-2.67

DE: Demerged Entity

Day 2: silver extends losses

Silver extended losses for the second day in futures trade as investors intensified profit-booking amid a firm U.S. dollar and easing geopolitical tensions.

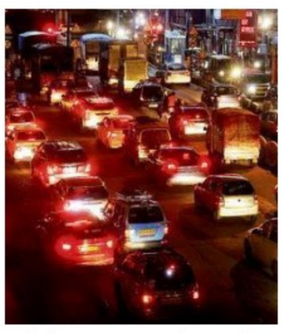
India drops small car sops in new fuel emission rules

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India scrapped a planned concession for small cars in upcoming fuel-efficiency rules after automakers including Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra argued it would benefit only one company, a government document shows.

A September draft had proposed leniency for petrol cars weighing 909 kg (2,004 lb) or less – a carveout widely seen as favouring Maruti Suzuki, which controls 95% of India's small-car market.

India's Power Ministry has now removed that exemption and tightened other parameters, increasing pressure on all automakers to ramp up electric and hybrid car sales, as per the latest 41-page draft reviewed by *Reuters*.



Vehicles are pictured at a toll post in Mumbai. REUTERS FILE

Efficiency gains

The new rules curb overcompensation for vehicle weight, aim to level the field between light and heavy fleet manufacturers, and are designed to deliver real-world efficiency gains, the document said.

They introduce "a substantially steeper reduction pathway" for emissions, it added. The Power Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

EV, Hybrid boost

Transport accounts for about 12% of India's energy use and is a major driver of petroleum imports and carbon emissions. Passenger vehicles make up nearly 90% of transport-related emissions, the document says.

Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) norms dictate permissible CO2 emissions across a manufacturer's fleet of passenger cars weighing less than 3,500 kg (7,716 lb).

PFC, REC boards approve merger

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pursuant to Budget announcement, the boards of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) informed the bourses they have in-principle approved a merger.

Separately, they also told exchanges details about the merger would be given after receiving requisite approvals.

In her Budget address, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the restructuring of the power sector non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), seeking to 'achieve scale and improve efficiency.'

Tata Steel Q3 net surges to ₹2,689 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Steel Ltd. third quarter consolidated net profit surged manifold to ₹2,689 crore from ₹327 crore in the year-earlier period.

Consolidated revenue rose 6% year-on-year to ₹57,002 crore.

India revenue stood at ₹35,725 crore while EBITDA was ₹8,291 crore, translating into a margin of 23%. Crude steel production was up 12% to 6.34 million tonne. "Improved production led to 'best-ever quarterly' deliveries to the tune of 6.04 million tonne, up 14% YoY," the company said.

The Netherlands revenues were €1,354 million and EBITDA was €55 million. UK revenue was £468 million and EBITDA loss at £63 million. Tata Steel spent ₹3,291 crore on capital expenditure during the third quarter.

Net debt declined by ₹5,206 crore QoQ to ₹81,834 crore, according to the company.

Crude steel output was up 12%.

AI unveils new lounge at T3 Delhi Airport

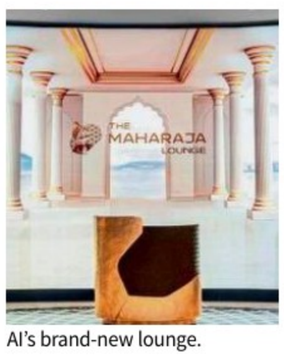
Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) unveiled a new lounge for its First Class and Business Class passengers on international flights at Terminal 3 (T3) of Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The lounge will open on February 16. Spread across 16000 sq. ft.,it can accommodate about 300.

The airline has plans to open lounges at San Francisco, New York and other international destinations.

"Along with new and retrofitted aircraft now joining the fleet and the new lounges, we hope what people are going to be experiencing while travelling Air India is worth the wait," AI CEO Campbell Wilson told journalists. Seat-availability-related supply challenges have put pressure on AI's retrofit programme, delaying the Boeing 777 aircraft upgrade by two years. The retrofit of the B777 fleet is now scheduled to begin in early 2027.



AI's brand-new lounge.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग क्षेत्र श्रीगंगानगर
क्रमांकः अ.मु.अ./गंगा/2025-26/1767 दिनांकः 23/01/2026
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 06/2025-26
जल जीवन मिशन के अन्तर्गत स्वीकृत 01 कार्य हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकर्ताओं से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं **दिनांक 27.02.2026 को 13:00 बजे तक** आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबंधित अन्य विवरण राज्य के ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं। प्रोक्योरमेंट का अनुमानित मूल्य **रू. 891.27 लाख** रूपये है। राज्य लोक उपापन पोर्टल (SPPP) पर UBN संख्याएं निम्नानुसार हैं :—
1. **NIB No.**: 06/2025-26, **UBN No.**: PHE2526WLOB11487
(ललित किशोर करोल)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/1848/2026 जन स्वा.अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र श्रीगंगानगर

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S.MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Store/2025-26/12069-75 Dated: 27/01/2026
Notice Inviting Bid
E-Bid for Providing Hiring of Manpower Services at SMS medical college & Attached Hospital Jaipur, Rajasthan are invited from interested bidder's up to 17/02/26 At 4:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and SMS Medical College, Jaipur Department website.
UBN: SMS2526SLRC00623
NIB NO: SMS2526A0344
DIPR/C/1974/2026 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF ANDHRA PRADESH
IGMC STADIUM, LABBIPET, BANDAR ROAD, VIJAYAWADA
Tenders are hereby invited from reputed and experienced companies for the following tenders.
Tender ID : 895658, 895656
Name of the work : Short tender for Procurement of Sports Kits and Dress to players and coaches.
Bid Starting date : 07.02.2026 **Bid end date :** 11.02.2026
Tender documents are available on e-procurement platform **tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**. Tenders will be opened in the presence of company representatives who attend the evaluation. For further details contact : **0866-2499699**.
DIPR 4804PP/CL, Dt: 06-02-2026 Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director

MBM UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR
(Central Store)
No. : MBMU/OIC/2025-26/1418 Date :- 02/02/2026
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bids are invited from interested eligible and experienced vendors/suppliers for the supply/provision of the following items/services at MBM University, Jodhpur. All other particulars of the bid may be visited on the portal **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.mbm.ac.in.**
1. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526WSOB00095 Tender No.69/2025-26 for "Tender for Turnkey Execution of CCTV Cameras, facility in classrooms, laboratory rooms and campus Works for University Campus" in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹220.00 Lakh. rupees and last date of bid submission 21.02.2026, 12:00 Noon.
2. Bids vide UBN No: MBM2526WSOB00094 Tender No.68/2025-26 for "E-Tender for Furniture works of Auditorium and other" in MBM University, Jodhpur with estimated amount ₹106.00 Lakhs and last date of bid submission 21.02.2026 12:00 Noon.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19220 OIC-Central Store

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) invites online tender, for the following work:
Tender No.T25R220471 : Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 13 No. 220/66/11KV, 160 MVA Power Transformers at various substations of DTL on Turnkey Basis in Delhi.
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. 2026_DTL_286240_1) and **www.dtl.gov.in** with Unique No. DTL-9874-060226.
Last date for bid submission: **24.03.2026 at 1:30 P.M.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extension/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

APPOINTMENT

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantri Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Website : www.jipmer.edu.in Phone: 0413-2296022
No.JPADMN-1REC015(DAK)/1/2026 Date : 07.02.2026
Applications are invited from eligible serving officers or persons who have retired from Central/ State Government/ Autonomous Institutions/ Universities/ Research Institutions etc. for one post of Dean (Academic) at JIPMER (Karaikal Campus) (Level 14 as per 7th CPC) **on Deputation/Short-term contract/Contract (for retired persons) basis.**
The application format and details of pay scale, age, qualifications, experience and other eligibility conditions, etc. are available at **www.jipmer.edu.in.**
Last date for receipt of applications is **23.03.2026** (Monday) till **4.30 P.M.** **DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
No.20/PW/SBD-II/DB/D4/Tender /2025-26 Puducherry, date:06.02.2026
Notice Inviting e-Tender
The Executive Engineer, Special Buildings Division-II, PWD, Puducherry invites on behalf of the President of India, online bids for the following Work:
Tender No.75/PW/SBD-II/ 2025-26 Name of Work: Proposed Construction of Indira Gandhi College of Arts and Science, Kadirkamam at Dakshinamoorthy Nagar, Puducherry.
Sub Work 1: Construction of Administrative Block including Development of site in Indira Gandhi College of Arts and Science, Kadirkamam at Dakshinamoorthy Nagar, Puducherry **(Second Call)**. Estimate Cost: **Rs.15,66,48,170/-** (inclusive of GST). Earnest Money: **Rs.25,66,482/-**. Period of Completion: **(18) Eighteen** Months (Including Monsoon period). Last time & date of submission of tender @ 4.00 pm on **16.02.2026**.
The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in.**
No.790/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26 **EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
CORRIGENDUM (Through KPP Portal Only)
No.KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3879, Date: 19.01.2026.
Name of the Work: Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2 sets of 220V, 600Ah capacity Lead acid Tubular in Transparent SAN container (OPzS) battery Bank (Each set consists of 108 No. of 2V, 600Ah capacity Lead acid Tubular cells) with all accessories and necessary spares to retrofit the existing 2 sets of 220V, 600Ah capacity Lead acid Tubular in Transparent SAN container (OPzS) battery banks of 400KV switchyard with buy back arrangement of RTPS. Last Date & time for submission of bids is extended upto **11.02.2026 upto 17:30Hrs**
The detailed notification can be obtained from the KPP Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details contact: **Executive Engineer (GM-2), Mobile: 94495 96536. E-mail: eegm2rtpskpcl@karnataka.gov.in/eegm2.rtps@gmail.com. RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District.**

राजस्थान स्कूल शिक्षा परिषद्
भू- तल, ब्लॉक-6, डॉ.एस. राधाकृष्णन शिक्षा संकुल, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग, जयपुर,
फोन नं:- 0141-2700459, E-Mail:- RAJSMSA.CIVIL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN
क्रमांक :- F-5(1)(294)RCSCE/Civil /SMSA/NIT 16 2025-26 /Vol-13/2025/D - 6938 दिनांक :- 02/02/2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 16 (सिविल)/2025-26
(राजकीय विद्यालय/केजीबीवी/हॉस्टल के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु)
राज्य एवं केन्द्र सरकार के राजकीय/अर्द्धशासकीय/स्वायत्तशासी निकायों में सक्षम श्रेणी में निर्माण कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत संवेदकों से समग्र शिक्षा वार्षिक कार्य योजना एवं बजट वर्ष 2024–25, 2025–26, DAJGUA 2024-25, DAJGUA 2025-26, STARS PROJECT 2023-24 राज्य मद 2024–25, 2025–26 एवं नाबार्ड आर.आई.डी.एफ. XXIX, इत्यादि योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत 26 राजकीय विद्यालय/केजीबीवी/हॉस्टल के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु राशि रू. 7328.75 लाख (प्रति कार्य की राशि रूपये 220.59 लाख से 413.73 लाख के मध्य) बाबत् कार्यवार ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ई–निविदाऐं 05/02/2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 24/02/2026 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।
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राज.संवाद/सी/25/19225

PESHAWAR

Pakistan security forces kill 24 militants in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

AFP

Pakistani security forces have killed 24 militants in two separate intelligence-based operations in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military's media wing said on Friday. The military's media wing added that the counter-terrorism operations will continue at full pace to wipe out terrorism. PTI

ADDIS ABABA

African Union says M23 Congo airport attack may be 'terrorism'

AFP

The African Union said on Friday that a drone attack this week by the M23 armed group on a civilian airport in DR Congo, which it said had destroyed a "military drone command centre" may constitute an "act of terrorism". The attack marked an escalation in conflict in eastern DRC, where M23 has seized large swathes of territory. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. strikes another 'drug-trafficking boat' in Eastern Pacific, killing two

AFP

The U.S. military said on Thursday that it has carried out another deadly strike on a vessel accused of trafficking drugs in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It said the strike killed two persons. Thursday's attack raises the death toll from the Trump administration's strikes on alleged drug boats to 128 people. AP

BEIRUT

Lebanon, Syria sign deal to transfer 300 Syrian prisoners back home

AFP

Syria's Justice Minister Mazhar al-Wais and Lebanon's Deputy Prime Minister Tarek Mitri signed an agreement in Beirut on Friday to transfer more than 300 Syrians from Lebanese prisons to continue serving their sentences in their home country. The signing came a week after Lebanon's Cabinet approved a treaty with Syria. AP

U.S. urges new three-way nuclear weapons deal with Russia, China

U.S. official DiNanno slams New START for its 'fundamental flaws' and argues that China's nuclear arsenal lacks transparency and limitations; Trump rejects Putin's proposal to extend New START for one year; China and Russia resist U.S. proposals

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The expiration of New START marks the first time in decades that the world finds itself without a treaty to curb nuclear weapons. AFP

The United States on Friday urged three-way talks with Russia and China to set new limits on nuclear weapons, after the last treaty between top nuclear powers Washington and Moscow expired.

Thomas DiNanno, the under secretary of state for arms control, told the UN Conference on Disarmament that the New START treaty, which was allowed to lapse on Thursday, had "fundamental flaws".

"Serial Russian violations, growth of more worldwide stockpiles and flaws in New START's design and implementation gives the United States a clear imperative to call for a new architecture that addresses the threats of today, not those of a bygone era," he told the conference at the United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva.

"As we sit here today, China's entire nuclear arsenal has no limits, no transparency, no declarations, had no controls," he lamented.

He added that "the next era of arms control will require the participation of more than just Russia".

The expiration of New START, which restricted the U.S. and Russia to deploying 1,550 nuclear warheads each, marks the first time in decades that the world finds itself without a treaty to curb the positioning of the planet's most destructive weapons.

U.S. President Donald Trump did not accept a proposal from Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin to keep New START's restrictions in place for another year, and called on Thursday for a "new, improved and modernised treaty".

China has already publicly rejected joining disarmament negotiations. China's ambassador Shen Jian reiterated that position on Friday, insisting that "China's nuclear capabilities are nowhere near the level of those of the U.S. or Russia".

Russia's ambassador Gennady Gatilov meanwhile insisted that any new nuclear talks should also include other nuclear-armed states such as France and Britain.

Iran, U.S. hold nuclear talks in Oman after Trump threats

Agence France-Presse
MUSCAT

Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff meet with Omani Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr Albusaidi in Muscat on Friday. REUTERS

Iran on Friday said it expected to hold more negotiations with the United States, hailing a "positive atmosphere" during a day of indirect talks in Oman but warning against threats after Washington raised the spectre of new military action. With an American naval group led by an aircraft carrier in West Asian waters, U.S. and Iranian delegations held talks in Muscat mediated by the Gulf sultanate without publicly meeting face-to-face.

Shortly after the talks wrapped up, the U.S. announced new sanctions against shipping entities and vessels, aimed at curbing Iran's oil exports.

The talks were the first between the two foes since the U.S. joined Israel's war with Iran in June 2025 with strikes on nuclear sites.

They also come just under a month after Iranian authorities launched a crackdown on protests that left thousands dead, according to rights groups.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who led Iran's delegation in Muscat, said talks "focused exclusively" on the Iranian nuclear programme which the West believes is aimed at making an atomic bomb but Tehran insists is peaceful.

The U.S. delegation, led by U.S. West Asia envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, had also wanted Tehran's backing for militant groups, its ballistic missile programme and treatment of protesters to also be on the agenda.

Violence shadows Bangladesh elections as 127 million prepare to vote

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

On January 28, supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami became embroiled in a dispute over front-row seating at a programme in Jhenaigati upazila of Sherpur district, triggering a violent clash. At least 65 people were injured, and a Jamaat upazila secretary was killed. Police and army personnel were present at the scene but were unable to prevent the violence. Similar clashes have been reported across the country as Bangladesh heads towards national elections on February 12, the first since the dramatic ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024.

The 13th national election, involving nearly 127 million voters, has raised hopes of a peaceful transition from the post-Hasina interim government to an elected administration. But violence has posed new challenges to the election process. At least 15 political leaders and activists have been killed in the 36 days since the Election Commission announced the election schedule on December 11, 2025.

Growing unrest

For first-time voters like Taimur Mobin, a 22-year-old graduate from a public university in Dhaka, the growing unrest has dampened expectations. "After a mass uprising that promised the restoration of voting rights, this kind of violence is deeply discouraging," he said. "If it continues, many voters especially elderly people may avoid polling centres."

Human rights organisations say the scale of violence is alarming. According to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), at least 195 people were killed and 11,229 injured in political violence over the past 17 months. Nearly half of those incidents stemmed from internal conflicts within the BNP and its affiliated bodies, accounting for 121 deaths and 7,131 injuries.

Another rights group, Odhikar, reported an even higher toll, stating that 328 people were killed and 9,182 injured in political violence between August 9, 2024, and December 31, 2025.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) warned that the risk of violence could extend beyond polling day. "We all hope there will not be a single killing or incident, but we cannot guarantee that," said TIB executive director Iftekharuzzaman. "Based on past experience, the risk may continue for several days after February 12." TIB records show that at least 600 incidents of political violence were reported nationwide between August 2024 and December 2025, resulting in 158 deaths. Mr. Iftekharuzzaman stressed that Bangladesh's history of violent elections should serve as a warning. "Lessons from previous polls must be used to prevent violence this time," he said.

Bangladesh Border Guard personnel stand guard as Inquilab Mancha supporters hold a protest in Dhaka on Friday. AP

As polling day approaches, political parties continue to trade accusations. Jamaat-e-Islami has repeatedly alleged that its women activists are being attacked by BNP supporters, and accused the EC of playing a "passive role". Islami Andolan Bangladesh, another Islamist party, has claimed that its female campaigners were attacked by Jamaat supporters.

Independent candidates have not been spared. On February 5, at least 20 people, including an independent candidate in Chandpur-4 constituency, were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by BNP supporters. The BNP, in turn, has accused Jamaat of exploiting religious sentiment and harassing its female activists.

Mr. Shahadat Shadhin, a political analyst and research scholar at South Asian University, said the situation reflects a failure of authority. "Election-related violence is increasing, but I do not see sufficient seriousness from the interim government," he said. "The Election Commission is constitutionally empowered during elections, yet no visible action has been taken. This vacuum of responsibility is extremely alarming."

Protests in Dhaka

Adding to the volatility, Dhaka is witnessing major protests seemingly unrelated to electoral politics. On Friday, government employees staged a sit-in outside Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's residence demanding implementation of a new pay scale. Police dispersed the protest using batons, water cannons and sound grenades, injuring dozens. Another platform, Inqilab Moncho, also held demonstrations demanding a UN-supervised investigation into the killing of its spokesperson Osman Hadi.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Army on Thursday reaffirmed its full preparedness to help conduct the elections and referendum in a "fair, free and peaceful" manner. Its Military Operations Director Brig Gen Dewan Mohammad Monzur Hossain said troops are already conducting extensive field-level activities as part of all-out preparations.

Kyiv behind Moscow shooting of army general, says Russia

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

General Vladimir Alekseyev is the deputy head of Moscow's GRU military intelligence

A top Russian military intelligence general was shot in a Moscow apartment building on Friday and hospitalised, Moscow said, in what it said was an assassination attempt orchestrated by Ukraine.

There was no comment from Kyiv, which has claimed responsibility for some of the several high-ranking military officials that have been killed since Moscow launched its full-scale offensive in February 2022.

Russian investigators said Vladimir Alekseyev – the deputy head of Moscow's GRU military intelligence, sanctioned in the West for his alleged role in cyberattacks and charges that he organised a nerve agent attack on a Russian defector in Britain – was shot by an "unidentified individual".

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Ukraine of being behind the "terrorist act", accusing Kyiv of trying to "disrupt the negotiation process" searching for an end to the four-year war.

KANNUR International Airport
KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
Tenders are invited by Managing Director, KIAL for the following work:
Tender No. : KIAL/BDM/08/2026
Name of Work : Expression of Interest for Selection of Concessionaire to Design, Fit-Out, Finance, Develop, Operate, Maintain and Manage Duty Free Outlets at Kannur International Airport.
Last Date of Submission of Proposal: 20 February 2026, 1500 hrs
For more details please visit : www.kannurairport.aero

CSIR – INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
1) Name of work:Painting works at inside walls of common areas at CSIR-IICB Guest House, Salt Lake campus, Kolkata; 2) Estimated Cost ₹7,68,000; 3) E-Tender No. 2026_CSIR_265595_1; 4) Publication date in C.P.P. portal —06.02.2026; 5). For further details please visit https://www.iicb.res.in/tenders, and https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC (R AND B)/18/2025-26
No.726 Dtd.04/02/2026
1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE for the construction of Road Works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = 02 Nos (Road Works)
3. Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/-
4. Class of contractor : "A" Class and "Special" Class
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From 10.02.2026 to 17.00 Hours of 25.02.2026.
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : 26.02.2026 at 11.00 Hours.
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.
34001/22/2526 OIPR-34001/34035/1/25-26/0022

IndianOil
CIN : L23201MH1959GOI011388
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST(EOI)
IOCL intends to conduct a comprehensive market research & techno-economic feasibility study for the specialty products/KSMs/APIs. An EOI is floated in IOCL website. All experienced Consultants/relevant firms are requested to participate in the EOI. Last date for participation in EOI is 21/02/2026. For further details kindly refer the Tender ID: 2026_RND_188812_1 in following given weblink (https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app)

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, 5th Floor, No.5, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
No: KWB/TEC/CE(B)/CLK/UGD/1729/2025-26, Dated: 05.02.2026
Name of the Work: Tender for the work of "Providing under ground drainage scheme to Challakere city including operation & maintenance for a period of 5 years (including 1 year DLP) through Design, Build, Operation and Transfer (DBOT) mode (Variation Not Applicable)"
Indent No.: KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/Work_INDENT491
For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (B),
KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5485/CCL/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 15 / 2025-26
1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below:
2. Nature of work : Bridge Work
3. No. of work : 01 no.
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000.00 (On-line)
5. Class of Contractor : A / Special Class Contractor
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 10.02.2026 to 5.00 PM of 26.02.2026
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 27.02.2026 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
34001/29/2526 OIPR-34001/34174/1/25-26/0029

CLEAR THOUGHT

Avoiding outside noise the best way, says Pakistan skipper Agha

AFP

Pakistan captain Salman Agha said the team will try to shut out the off-field noise surrounding its planned boycott of the India match and instead focus on winning the remaining group games to qualify for the T20 World Cup Super Eight. "And I think that's the best we can do. We can avoid all this and just focus on our game," he said.

IN FOCUS

Late-entrant Scotland out to make a mark against the West Indies

RITU RAJ KONWAR

West Indies will be keen to begin its T20 World Cup campaign with a win against last-minute entrant Scotland in a Group-C match in Kolkata on Saturday. Scotland, having won its solitary World Cup meeting against West Indies in 2022, would love to maintain its upper hand despite the odds.

UNPREDICTABLE

Fortune could outweigh familiarity in a format like T20: Netravalkar

FILE PHOTO: K. R. DEEPAK

USA pacer Saurabh Netravalkar felt in a format as unpredictable as T20 cricket, fortune could outweigh familiarity. "The novelty factor would be true because they will have less data on us, but obviously they are far more skilful and experienced and they are one of the best teams in the world," he said ahead of the match against India.

CHURNING

Hazlewood ruled out; Madushan replaces Malinga in Lanka squad

AP

In a major setback to an already depleted Australia, its premier pacer Josh Hazlewood was, on Friday, ruled out of the T20 World Cup after "running out of time" to recover from a hamstring injury. Meanwhile, fast bowler Pramod Madushan has replaced injured pacer Eshan Malinga in the Sri Lanka squad.

The time has come for cricket's rapid-fire round

The backdrop of the 10th edition of the tournament has been soured with the removal of Bangladesh and Pakistan's decision to boycott the contest against India in Colombo

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

Over a month, 20 teams will criss-cross India and to some extent Sri Lanka, as 55 games will be held, including the final on March 8

Under the skies over Colombo, Kolkata and Mumbai, a championship will step into its 10th edition on Saturday. The ICC Twenty20 World Cup's latest chapter will find its opening pages through three contests being staged at far-flung cities.

Pakistan will take on Netherlands at Colombo, West Indies will lock horns with Scotland at Kolkata, and from 7 p.m., India will face off against the United States of America at Mumbai. Over a month, 20 teams will criss-cross India and to some extent Sri Lanka, as 55 games will be held, including the final on March 8.

Robust fixture

A tournament that had its tentative maiden foray in 2007, one that M.S. Dhoni's men owned in style, is now a robust fixture in the ICC calendar. Defending champion India obviously has an edge but playing at home does not exactly promise the cup as Rohit Sharma's men learnt it the hard way during the 2023 50-over World Cup final at Ahmedabad. It is a thin line that splits hope and heartbreak.

Still, the Men in Blue, relishing a prosperous run in T20Is, will fancy their chances of being on the victor's podium. Besides focusing on the field, off it, captain Suryakumar Yadav has the onerous task of dealing with queries focusing on international diplomacy.

The backdrop has been soured with the removal of Bangladesh and Pakistan's current decision of boycotting the contest against India in Colombo.

Never been a monopoly

The championship that has never been a monopoly of any team, however, has remained elusive for South Africa and New Zealand. Skippers Aiden Markram and Mitchell Santner have a trophy-gap to plug. Markram came agonisingly close before India pulled ahead in the 2024 final at Bridgetown.

Interestingly both South Africa and New Zealand prevailed in Tests in India, results that should bolster confidence even if T20Is and Tests are diverse formats.

Fresh legacy

The latest edition also marks the charge of a new generation as stars like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson are missing through a combination of retirements and omissions. Men like Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma can script a fresh legacy.

Australia under Mitchell Marsh, may look a touch undercooked and yet there is no discounting a side that has the pedigree of rising to every challenge thrown at it. Allan Border's Aussies did that precisely in the 1987 50-over World Cup held in India and Pakistan. The seeds of a dominant Australia, cutting across formats, were sown then, and the conveyor belt continues to chug.

England, Sri Lanka and the West Indies, all former champions, are seeking a fresh start. A format that can at times seem like a lottery riding on pulsating runs and fast dismissals, always lends hope. Miracles are just around the corner and history reveals that.

"Carlos Brathwaite, remember the name," exclaimed Ian Bishop, as his West Indian junior hammered four sixes to wrest the cup for the men from the Caribbean at Eden Gardens in 2016.

Lending hope

Among the lesser fancied teams, Afghanistan as always lends hope to its people back home. It also shows that sport often is a harbinger of positivity.

As cricket gets obsessed with its shortest format over the next few months due to the World Cup and the Indian Premier League, the ICC will have a hard balancing act ahead in giving Tests and ODIs, their due.

At the bustling Wankhede Stadium here, last-minute touches were dispensed as the venue geared up for India's first match. Inside, batters muscled the ball high into the skies, setting the tone for some frenetic weeks.

Shortest format's biggest showpiece
As 20 teams from across the globe take centrestage at the ICC T20 World Cup, a look at some significant numbers and records from the nine editions
ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026
THE HIGHS
MOST TITLES WON
India, West Indies and England (2 each)
MOST APPEARANCES IN A FINAL
India, Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka (3 each)
HIGHEST TOTAL
260/6 (Sri Lanka vs. Kenya, Johannesburg, 2007)
BIGGEST VICTORY MARGIN BY RUNS
172 (Sri Lanka vs. Kenya, Johannesburg, 2007)
THE TOPPERS
MOST RUNS
Kohli (India, 1292 in 33 innings)
MOST WICKETS
Shakib (Bangladesh, 50 wickets in 41 innings)
MOST DISMISSALS (WICKETKEEPER)
Dhoni (India, 32 in 32 innings - 21 catches, 11 stumpings)
MOST CATCHES (FIELDER)
Warner (Australia, 25 in 41 innings)
MOST RUNS IN AN EDITION — Kohli (319, 2014)
MOST WICKETS IN AN EDITION — Arshdeep (India, 2024) and Farooqi (Afghanistan, 2024) - 17
HIGHEST SCORE — Brendon McCullum (123 off 58b, NZ vs. Ban, Pallekele, 2012)
BEST BOWLING — Ajantha Mendis (4-2-8-6, SL vs. Zim, Hambantota, 2012)
MOST CENTURIES — Gayle (2 - one each in 2007 and 2016)
MOST 50-PLUS SCORES — Kohli (15)
FASTEST CENTURY — Gayle (47b, WI vs. England, Mumbai, 2016)
FASTEST HALF-CENTURY — Yuvraj (12b, India vs. England, Durban, 2007)
MOST FOUR-FORS — Nortje (SA), Rashid (Afg), Ajmal (Pak) and Shakib (Ban) - three each
MOST ECONOMICAL SPELL — Ferguson (4-4-0-3, NZ vs. Papua New Guinea, Tarouba, 2024)
Source: ESPNCRICINFO & ICC
Compiled by S. SHRIVATHSAN
T20 WORLD CUPS AT A GLANCE
0 No team has ever won the title at home
0 No team has successfully defended its crown in the tournament
1 The India-Pakistan group-stage clash in Durban in 2007 witnessed the only Bowl Out in the history of the competition. India went on to win 3-0
1 Zimbabwe's Brendan Taylor, 40, is the only player who featured in the inaugural event to be picked for this edition
1 Italy, ranked 27 in the world, is the lone debutant in this edition
2 Rohit (Ind) and Shakib (Ban) were the only players to figure in all nine editions
2 Oman has the tournament's oldest players in its squad — Aamir Kaleem (44) and Mohammad Nadeem (43)
3 Group D will have three top-10 ranked teams — New Zealand (4), South Africa (5) and Afghanistan (10) - unlike any other pool
5 Scotland will make its fifth successive appearance in the marquee event after having initially missed the cut

'Playing on home soil brings motivation'

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Today's matches

Colombo (SSC), 11 a.m. — HEAD-TO-HEAD — Played: 2 — Pakistan 2 | Netherlands 0

Kolkata, 3 p.m. — HEAD-TO-HEAD — Played: 1 — West Indies 0 | Scotland 1

Mumbai, 7 p.m. — HEAD-TO-HEAD — Played: 1 — India 1 | USA 0

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Suryakumar Yadav has developed a knack for cracking jokes during his media interactions as India's T20I captain. While that trait was on display on Friday, there was also a sense that the next four weeks could prove defining in the late bloomer's remarkable career.

"Playing on home soil is always exciting. I felt that when we played the ODI World Cup in 2023. Crowd coming in numbers, people having a chat around when you are travelling to the airport, so it's a good thing," Suryakumar said at the Wankhede Stadium, ahead of India's Men's T20 World Cup opening fixture against the United States of America on Saturday.

"It gives you motivation all the time. At the same time, it brings a lot of responsibility as you are getting to lead such a wonderful side, that too in India, starting at Wankhede. So the boys are very excited to take the field tomorrow [Saturday]. I am sure there will be a lot of excitement."

Can't wait: Suryakumar says his boys are excited to take the field. EMMANUAL YOGINI

India will face the USA 19 months after last coming up against a squad comprising largely of sub-continental expatriates. In addition to left-arm pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and Harmeet Singh, Suryakumar will also square off against Shubham Ranjane – the third of his former Mumbai teammates set to line up against India.

"They have gone now to the land of dollars, but I see it from a good perspective. It's good that people are getting an opportunity. Even though they are playing from other countries, it's a good opportunity for them," Suryakumar said. "I have played a lot of cricket with them. But right now, we are having fun with our own cricket."

The India captain also hinted that Ishan Kishan, who opened the innings during Wednesday's warm-up match against South Africa, is likely to continue at the top of the order alongside Abhishek Sharma.

Siraj. FILE PHOTO: PTI

Siraj replaces injured Harshit

Sports Bureau

India pacer Harshit Rana was on Friday ruled out of the T20 World Cup owing to a knee injury, with Mohammed Siraj being named as his replacement.

Harshit had sustained a knee injury during the warm-up match against South Africa. Following consultations with a specialist and subsequent scans, the BCCI medical team deemed him unfit to participate in the tournament.

The squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel, Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Washington Sundar, and Mohammed Siraj.

India's top-order is explosive

Sunil Gavaskar

Another ICC World Cup begins, and this time in the ultra-short format of the game, the T20. There has to be some off-field issues that dominate the headlines and this time is no different. As usual, there will be some from the old powers who blame the BCCI for the problem and not their cricket board's representative, who also would have been part of any decision taken. Once the cricket starts, all this will be put aside as teams will focus on doing their very best to get ahead in the tournament.

India are the pre-tournament favourites, not only because they are the defending champions but also because of the cricket that they have been playing recently. They begin their campaign against the USA. The America team has a fair share of players who played a good amount of First Class cricket in India and then migrated to the USA. Some of them have played alongside India players and know them quite well. That said, there won't be any let-up on the field from either side.

The PowerPlay generally gives an indication of which way the innings is going, though there are plenty of times when teams have recovered after a horrible start. India's opening duo Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan has been getting the team off to a flying start. With skipper Suryakumar Yadav back to his innovative best and Tilak Varma returning to full fitness, the top-order looks explosive. They will be challenged by Saurabh Netravalkar at the start and then Harmeet Singh. Both know the Wankhede pitch quite well and would be aware that there is little margin for error.

Their batters will be up against Jasprit Bumrah, currently the best bowler in all formats of the game. In the just-concluded series against New Zealand, he was used as a first-change bowler in the fifth over. Just like how the batting order has to be flexible, there shouldn't be rigidity about the bowling order. The T20 format allows even unfancied teams to change the tempo of the game in the blink of an eye. The USA will be hoping they can do it and start the tournament with a bang.

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INBRIEF

Nitu, Preeti, and Jadumani storm into the semifinals

Former world champion Nitu Ghanghas, Asian Games bronze medallist Preeti Pawar and Jadumani Singh punched their way into the semifinals, as Indian boxers assured themselves of 19 medals at the Boxam Elite International in La Nucia, Spain. The Indian women's team, under the guidance of new head coach Santiago Nieva, has confirmed 12 medals, while seven male boxers also progressed to the semifinals.

The results: Women: 51kg: Nitu Ghanghas bt McKenzie Wright (Can) 5-0, Chuthamat Raksat (Tha) bt Kusum 5-0.
54kg: Preeti Pawar bt Maria Gonzalez (Esp) abandoned Rd3, Poonam bt Natnicha Chongprongklang (Tha) 5-0.
60kg: Priya bt Laura Galano (Esp) 5-0.
65kg: Pranjal bt Viktorie Jilkova (Cze) 5-0, Kajal bt Akbar Ichshanova (Kaz) 4-1.
Men: 55kg: Jadumani bt Peng Chia-Feng (Tpe) 5-0, Ellis Trowbridge (Eng) bt Pawan Bartwal 3-2.
60kg: Mohammed Hussamuddin bt Ali Dahly (Ukr) 5-0, Sachin bt Aider Abduraimov (Ukr) 3-2.
65kg: Elvin Aliiev (Ukr) bt Abhinash Jamwal 4-1.
75kg: Akash bt Jose Luis Canero (Esp) 4-1.
80kg: Isaac Okoh (Eng) bt Harsh Choudhary 5-0.
90kg: Nurassyl Assylkhan (Kaz) 5-0.

Adarsh clinches high jump bronze in China

Adarsh Ram Jothi Shankar clinched the men's high jump bronze at the 12th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships that got underway in Tianjin on Friday. He produced a best jump of 2.19m. Praveen Chithravel (16.22m) finished fourth in the men's triple jump. Yogita (15.33m) also finished fourth in the women's shot put.

End of the road for India in Asian team badminton

India's title defence in the women's team event came to a disappointing end after a 0-3 loss to a second-string China, while the men's side suffered a 1-3 defeat to Korea in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Team Championships in Qingdao, China, on Friday.

The results (quarterfinals): Women: China bt India 3-0 (Gao Fang Jie bt Tanvi Sharma 21-9, 21-9; Jia Yi Fan & Zhang Shu Xian bt Gayatri Gopi Chand & Treesa Jolly 24-22, 21-18; Xu Wen Jing bt Rakshitha Ramraj 21-14, 15-21, 21-17).
Men: Korea bt India 3-1 (Tae Bin Yoo bt Ayush Shetty 18-21, 21-14, 26-24; Song Hyun Cho & Kim Won Ho bt Chirag Shetty & Hariharan Amsakarunan 21-11, 21-13; Ji Hoon Choi lost to Kidambi Srikanth 15-21, 16-21; Yong Jin & Dong Ju Ki bt Pruthvi K. Roy & Sai Pratheek K. 21-11, 21-16).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m., 3 p.m.& India vs USA, 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Nagal meets Den Ouden in opening rubber; Dhakshineswar plays de Jong

Balaji to partner Yuki in doubles as India takes on the Netherlands for a place in the Qualifiers 2nd Round to be held in September

DAVIS CUP

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

The last two times the lush green Cubbon Park welcomed the Davis Cup, the draw ceremony was held at the majestic Vidhana Soudha, the iconic seat of the Karnataka State Legislature.

On Friday, when the draw for India's Qualifiers 1st Round fixture against Netherlands was conducted, it was at a modest, but neat, make-shift structure within the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium complex.

It was perhaps the apt build-up for Saturday's action. The Dutch are not known to be great admirers of flamboyance, for their society swears by the mantra *Doe Normaal* (just be normal). India too is stepping into the contest gingerly, waiting with bated breath to see how its frontline singles player Sumit Nagal holds up after three weeks of injury rehab.

At stake is a place in September's Qualifers 2nd Round, the last stage before the season-ending, eight-team Davis Cup Finals.

On paper, the visitors are better, even without World No. 29 Tallon Griekspoor and No. 67 Botic van de Zandschulp, both of whom are busy at the ATP Rotterdam 500.

The Netherlands, Davis Cup runner-up in 2024, is sixth in the world while India is 33rd. The top-two Dutch singles players here, Jesper de Jong and Guy Den Ouden, are ranked 88 and 162 respectively, compared to Nagal's 281 and Dhakshineswar Suresh's 465.

Battlelines drawn: The Dutch team of Arends, Pel, Houkes, Den Ouden, de Jong and captain Haarhuis with Indian skipper Rajpal, Nagal, Karan, Dhakshineswar, Yuki and Balaji at the draw ceremony on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Limited currency

But the charm of the Davis Cup is that pedigree and status have limited currency. India's own 3-1 win against Switzerland last year is evidence, as the lanky Dhakshineswar beat a player ranked more than 280 places above him.

Also, Nagal was a career-high 68 in mid-2024 and has a good understanding of the Garden City's fast, high-altitude conditions.

Order of Play

On Saturday (Play starts at 4 p.m.): Sumit Nagal vs. Guy Den Ouden; Dhakshineswar Suresh vs. Jesper de Jong
On Sunday (Play starts at 2 p.m.): Yuki Bhambri & Sriram Balaji vs. Sander Arends & David Pel; Nagal vs. de Jong; Dhakshineswar vs. Den Ouden

Interestingly, the 28-year-old has never played the opening match in any of his eight Cup appearances. A win against Den Ouden in the first rubber on Saturday can set up the tie for India.

For Sunday's doubles, captain Rohit Rajpal, citing better preparedness, has chosen Sriram Balaji instead of Rithvik Bollipalli to partner World No. 20 Yuki Bhambri.

But India has lost the doubles point in all three of its recent outings against European opposition – to Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark. A snapping of the streak will be timely.

Time for the next generation to step up: Wesley Koolhof

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Tennis is no more the preserve of just the young. The likes of Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka in singles, and Rohan Bopanna and Rajeev Ram in doubles, have battled Father Time quite successfully.

Former doubles World No. 1 Wesley Koolhof, though, did not even bother getting into that fight. A content man, he retired at the end of the 2024 season aged 35. He was still World No. 8, and in 2023, he had won Wimbledon, his only men's doubles Slam title.

"I am very happy with my decision," Koolhof told *The Hindu*, on the sidelines of Netherlands' Davis Cup fixture versus India, where he is the visitors' assistant coach.

"It's time for the next generation to step up and I am here to bring my knowledge."

Interestingly, Koolhof's last appearance was in the Davis Cup Finals tie where the legendary Rafael Nadal bowed out of competitive tennis. Koolhof and Botic van de Zandschulp won the decisive doubles in two tie-break sets over Carlos Alcaraz and Marcel Granollers to end Spain's campaign in the quarterfinal.

At peace: Koolhof is happy with his decision to step away and help the current players. K. MURALI KUMAR

Back in the limelight

Netherlands eventually lost its maiden final, to Italy in straightforward fashion, but the run brought tennis back into the limelight in a country that is still searching for its first Grand Slam singles champion since Richard Krajicek (Wimbledon 1996).

"When Spain announced that Nadal was playing, there was so much media attention," Koolhof recalled. "There are a lot of Dutch people too in Malaga and the atmosphere was unbelievable.

"Overall, it was good. Got a bit more publicity. Football is top, but it was good for Dutch tennis."

Rudrankksh and Arjun finish 1-2 in 10m air rifle

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rudrankksh Patil and Arjun Babuta secured the gold and silver medals, respectively, in the 10m air rifle men's event at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Friday as India continued to shine in the Asian Rifle / Pistol Championship.

The host ended day three of the competition with six gold, three silver and one bronze to take its tally to a total of 26 medals.

Himanshu Dhillon, Ansh Dabas and Naren Pranav V.S. swept the podium in the junior men's air rifle event.

The mixed team pairs of Mukesh Nelavalli and Vanshika Chaudhary, and Girish Gupta and Shiksha Saran secured gold in the 10m air pistol junior and youth mixed team events respectively to kick off India's medal haul for the day.

Top class: Rudrankksh, centre, flanked by Arjun and Japan's Okada.

Rudrankksh and Arjun started slowly and were placed outside the medal places after the first series of shots.

Rudrankksh got hold of momentum from the second series and took the lead in the 16th shot, maintaining it to the end to secure his first-ever Asian Championship medal. Arjun also climbed to the second spot at the end of the 16th shot.

Both Indians maintained their positions on top from then on with Rudrankksh finishing with a final score of 251.9. Arjun finished on 250.7. Japan's Naoya Okada, who was leading the field until the 16th shot, took bronze with a score of 229.3.

The other Indian in the final, Vishal Singh, finished fifth but took the team gold along with Rudrankksh and Arjun with a combined score of 1884.7. Kazakhstan won the team silver with a combined score of 1879.4 while Japan won bronze with a score of 1877.2.

Tagger rallies to knock out Semenistaja, meets Fangran in the semifinals

MUMBAI OPEN

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

In a contest between two champions players – Latvia's Darja Semenistaja, the 2024 tournament winner here, and Austria's Lilli Tagger – it was the 17-year-old who came through.

The 2025 French Open junior champion, seeded seventh, rallied to defeat second seed Semenistaja 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 in a last eight clash in the L&T Mumbai Open 125K Series at the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association here on Friday.

The 23-year-old Latvian made a strong opening, asserting control in the first set with a high percentage on serve and well-placed winners from the baseline. Semenistaja repeatedly unsettled Tagger with court-stretching groundstrokes and forehand volleys, forcing the teenager into long rallies.

Big scalp: Tagger hung in to dash former champion Semenistaja's hopes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One of the standout moments came in the sixth game, a marathon exchange featuring extended rallies before Tagger eventually held serve with a blistering forehand winner down the line to level at 3-3. Semenistaja, however, drew on her experience and broke serve in the tenth game to take the opening set 6-4.

Tagger found her rhythm in the second set, lifting both her intensity and precision. The Austrian served with authority, firing aces down the 'T', and began to control rallies with a 'Federer-esque' backhand and effective net play to claim the set 6-4.

The decider was one-way traffic. With the humid conditions taking a visible toll on Semenistaja, Tagger dictated proceedings, breaking early and maintaining her dominance from the baseline to close out the match 6-2 and seal her place in the last four.

Other Results: Singles (quarterfinals): Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Tatiana Prozorova (Rus) 6-1, 6-4; Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) bt Leolia Jeanjean (Fra) 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; Fangran Tian (Chn) bt Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.
Doubles (semifinal): Nicole Fossa Huergo (Arg) & Mananchaya Sawangkaew (Tha) bt Hiroko Kuwata (Jpn) & Park So-hyun (Kor) bt (Tha) 6-4, 6-7(4), [10-5].

I want to make my 'uncle' Lillee proud: Italy pacer Draca

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Italy's Australia-bred pacer Thomas Draca will run in this T20 World Cup with history swinging against his chest – a chain once worn by Dennis Lillee. To others, it's just a chain. To him, it's inheritance. He calls Lillee family.

"Dennis has actually given me his World Series chain. It's got his Test cap and his signature on it. He gave me that for my 21st birthday.

In this World Cup, I'll be wearing it, and I want to do him proud. I wouldn't be here without him," said the 25-year-old after his team's 112-run win over the UAE in a warm-up match here on Friday.

Their bond began over a drink. "My dad grew up watching Dennis, but they bonded over wine.

Dennis asked if I played, offered a session, and from that day, we have had an unbelievable bond. I call him my uncle," Draca said.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Thumping win for Karnataka

Karnataka posted an innings victory over Goa in the under-14 boys' South Zone tournament at Vizianagaram.

The scores: Karnataka 406/1 decl. bt Goa 128 in 57.2 overs (Tej Raju 4/27) and 113 in 67.4 overs (Kavish Parab 55, Krishna Kumar 4/16).

Narrow win for

Karnataka women

Karnataka defeated Uttar Pradesh by 17 runs in the BCCI senior women's one day trophy at Rajkot.
The scores: Karnataka 282/6 in 50 overs (Shubha Satheesh 57, Shishira Gowda 119) bt Uttar Pradesh 265/9 in 50 overs (Muskan Malik 115, Nishi Kashyap 40, Archana Devi 46 n.o.).

Mansi to take on Shruti for the top honours

BENGALURU: Top seed Mansi Singh defeated Tasnim Mir 22-20, 21-19 in the women's semifinals of the Yonex-Sunrise All India senior-ranking badminton tournament here on Friday. In the other semifinal, third-seed Shruti Mundada took out unseeded M. Tanishq 21-10, 21-11.

Alap Mishra beat Dhruv Negi 15-21, 21-16, 21-9 in a men's last four clash.

Koyel steals the limelight

WEIGHTLIFTING

Sports Bureau

Promising lifter Koyel Bar rewrote five records, including three in youth and two in junior, as she aggregated 185kg to claim women's 53kg youth and junior crowns at the National weightlifting championships in Modinagar on Friday.

Koyel – who registered 83kg in snatch and 102kg in clean and jerk -- went past previous youth records of 78kg in snatch, 99kg in clean and jerk and 175kg in total. She also broke junior records for snatch (81kg) and total (181kg). Gyaneshwari Yadav totalled 186kg to secure the elite women's 53kg gold medal, while Koyel took the silver.

The results (winners only): Women: 53kg: Elite: Gyaneshwari Yadav snatch 83kg, clean and jerk 103kg, total 186kg; **junior and youth:** Koyel Bar (WB) 83kg, 102kg, 185kg.

Karnataka takes upper hand after Mumbai's batting debacle

None of the host batters, barring Herwadkar, show resilience on a surface with uneven bounce and a tinge of green; Kaverappa, Prasidh and Shreyas take three wickets each

RANJI TROPHY

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Mumbai opted to bat, hoping to make optimum use of home conditions. But a batting debacle and some disciplined bowling by Karnataka saw the 42-time champion folding up for a paltry 120 in their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here.

As Venkatesh Prasad, the Karnataka State Cricket Association president, watched the proceedings at the MCA-BKC ground on Friday, the seasoned Mayank Agarwal ensured that the team ended the day at 110 for two.

Mayank Agarwal (54 batting, 81b, 8x4, 1x6) and K.L. Rahul added 50 for the opening wicket. Both looked to capitalise on the start before Rahul was caught at covers by Tanush Kotian off a Mohit Avasthi delivery.

Things slowed down thereafter as captain Devdutt Padikkal couldn't extend his stay beyond 27 balls, caught behind off Suryansh Shedge.

However, with Karun Nair surviving a review, there were no further slip-ups.

None of the Mumbai batters, barring Akhil Herwadkar (60, 138b, 9x4), showed resilience on a surface that had a tinge of green and offered uneven bounce.

Gotcha! Prasidh celebrates after ending Akash's stay. EMMANUAL YOGINI

With Sarfaraz Khan ruled out due to a viral fever, Mumbai's batting was heavily reliant on Yashasvi Jaiswal and Siddhesh Lad. But when it mattered the most, none delivered.

While Jaiswal looked edgy before being caught behind off a moving Vidyadhar Patil delivery, Vidwath Kaverappa tightened the noose further by dismissing Musheer Khan and Lad in quick succession. As the Karnataka fast bowlers breathed fire, a jittery Musheer offered a regulation catch to Rahul at first slip.

Herwadkar, who batted for 255 minutes, made most of a reprieve to bring up his second fifty of the season, and aimed to rebuild with Shedge, before the latter was caught behind off Prasidh Krishna.

Prasidh came close to a hat-trick, dismissing Akash Anand and Shams Mulani off successive deliveries. However, his fiery spell put Mumbai on the mat.

The scores: Mumbai — 1st innings: Yashavi Jaiswal c Kruthik b Vidyadhar 5, Akhil Herwadkar lbw b Shreyas 60, Musheer Khan c Rahul b Kaverappa 1, Siddhesh Lad c Smaran b Kaverappa 12, Suryansh Shedge c Kruthik b Prasidh 10, Akash Anand c Mayank b Prasidh 2, Shams Mulani c Padikkal b Prasidh 0, Shardul Thakur c Shreyas b Kaverappa 16, Tanush Kotian c Rahul b Shreyas 0, Tushar Deshpande c Shikhar b Shreyas 0, Mohit Avasthi (not out) 0; Extras (lb-12, b-1, wd-1): 14; Total (in 48.1 overs): 120.

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-12, 3-39, 4-70, 5-78, 6-78, 7-107, 8-115, 9-119.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 14-3-38-3, Vidyadhar 14-3-36-1, Prasidh 14-5-21-3, Shreyas 4.1-1-4-3, Shikhar 2-0-8-0.

Karnataka — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul c Kotian b Avasthi 28, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 54, Devdutt Padikkal c Akash b Shedge 17, Karun Nair (batting) 3; Extras (lb-7, nb-1): 8; Total (for two wkts. in 26 overs): 110.

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-88.

Mumbai bowling: Shardul 4-0-38-0, Avasthi 9-2-21-1, Deshpande 5-2-13-0, Shedge 4-0-16-1, Mulani 4-0-15-0.

Prasidh and Mayank.
EMMANUAL YOGINI

A good toss to lose, says Prasidh

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Mumbai's decision to bat on a surface with uneven bounce raised a few eyebrows, but Prasidh Krishna believes that it was a 'good toss to lose' for Karnataka.

With Vidyadhar Patil and Vidwath Kaverappa, who reached the 100 wicket milestone in First Class cricket, striking early, Mumbai was reduced to 39 for three, before Prasidh joined the party with three wickets.

"Honestly, it was a good toss to lose, that's what we said. We were also tending towards bowling, but they (the think-tank) were discussing batting first," Prasidh said.

Usually, Prasidh starts the proceedings for Karnataka with the new ball, but that did not happen on Friday as the team management decided to bring him into the attack later.

"Credit goes to Vidya and Vidwath for the way they started. That let me come in and get my time in to hold the line and understand what we want to do. It was a collective effort as all of us bowled well together," he said, adding: "(Coming in later) just gives you that extra leeway to alter your line and length and that's what we did. The catching also was very good".

RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINAL SCORES - DAY 1

At Mumbai: Mumbai 120 in 48.1 overs (Akhil Herwadkar 60, Vidwath Kaverappa 3/38, Prasidh Krishna 3/21, Shreyas Gopal 3/4) vs. Karnataka 110/2 in 26 overs (Mayank Agarwal 54 batting). **Toss:** Mumbai.
At Kalyani: Andhra 264/6 in 80 overs (K.S. Bharat 47, Shaik Rasheed 46, Ricky Bhui 83, Mukesh Kumar 3/50) vs. Bengal. **Toss:** Bengal.
At Indore: J & K 194 in 67 overs (Shubham Khajuria 60, Yudvir Singh 41, Kuldeep Sen 5/66, Kumar Kartikeya 3/26) vs. Madhya Pradesh 28/0 in 10 overs. **Toss:** Madhya Pradesh.
At Jamshedpur: Jharkhand 235 in 85 overs (Virat Singh 47, Aditya Singh 83, Janmejay Joshi 4/46, Aditya Rawat 3/39, Mayank Mishra 3/50) vs. Uttarakhand 4/0 in one over. **Toss:** Uttarakhand.

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Ref: SNB/Advt./25-26/018 — 7th February, 2026

Direct Applications and/or nominations from Indian Nationals are invited for the post of **DIRECTOR, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences** in Pay Level: 17 in 7th CPC (Basic pay - ₹ 2,25,000/-) with allowances as per Central Government Rules.

The Centre has research activities on Physical, Chemical, and Mathematical Sciences in Theoretical, Computational, and Experimental areas. The Centre undertakes cutting-edge research in chosen areas of basic sciences, including areas of application potentials, and is currently engaged also in translation research activities. In order to strengthen the R&D based human capacity, the Centre runs Ph.D. (post M.Sc.), Integrated Ph. D (post B.Sc.), and post-doctoral Research programmes. (Details of current research activities are available on the website: http://www.bose.res.in).

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a. At least 25 years of research experience in industrial and academic institutions and/or Science and Technology organizations or as faculty/scientist of recognized national/international universities/research institutes/Corporate R&D Labs etc, out of which at least 6 years should be in a senior position managing a Research Group, chairing Committees outside the institute or in managerial/administrative capacity for science & technology programmes, planning and development, budget & finance, coordination and such organizational matters.

b. R&D experience in any branch of science, especially Physics, Chemistry, or Mathematics

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(iii) 3 years regular service in the post carrying pay in the Pay Level 15 as per 7th CPC [Pay band of ₹ 67000-79000 (HAG) or equivalent (6th CPC)]; or
(iv) 7 years regular service in the post carrying pay in the Pay Level 14 as per 7th CPC [Pay band of ₹ 37400-67000 + Grade Pay of ₹ 10,000/- or equivalent (6th CPC)]; and

(b) Possessing the essential educational qualifications mentioned above.

Application/Nomination Process

Applications/ nominations should be sent by post to **"Registrar, S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Block JD, Sector III, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700106 ",** to reach this address **within 30 days** from the date of publication of the advertisement.

The last date of receipt of this applications from candidates (including nominations) in Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Ladakh (UT), Lahaul and Spiti District, and Pangi Sub Division of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep will be **45 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement.

The envelope containing the application must be superscribed with **"Application for the post of Director, SNBNCBS, Kolkata".** A copy of the application should be emailed to the Registrar, SNBNCBS at registrar@bose.res.in, and the same email should also be sent to the Chairman, SNBNCBS at gd.yadav@ictmumbai.edu.in.

Details and formats of the application to be downloaded from the websites: http://www.bose.res.in and http://dst.gov.in.

Registrar
S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences

THE HINDU GROUP

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Stealing the show

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Smriti (RCB)	9	377	96	153.25	0/3
Harmanpreet (MI)	8	342	82*	150.66	0/3
Sciver-Brunt (MI)	7	321	100*	151.41	1/3

PURPLE CAP

	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W/5W
Devine (GG)	9	17	4/37	8.28	1/0
Nandani (DC)	10	17	5/33	8.31	0/1
de Klerk (RCB)	9	16	4/22	7.84	2/0

Smriti battled flu in the WPL final, says Malolan

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

In the wee hours of Friday, as Royal Challengers Bengaluru basked in the afterglow of a second Women's Premier League title, Smriti Mandhana picked out Lauren Bell and Georgia Voll for special praise at the post-final presentation. She also expressed gratitude to the franchise's fans for their unwavering support. The 29-year-old, true to her self-effacing nature, didn't play up her own contribution. Perhaps she doesn't need to, when she is so adept at letting her bat do the talking.

The quality of her knock – she struck 87 off 41 balls – was top-notch in any given scenario. That she produced such brilliance in a chase of 204 on the big night made it even more remarkable, especially given the revelation by head coach Malolan Rangarajan that she had a high fever on the eve of the game.

"She saved one of her best innings for the final. Smriti played this game with a massive flu. She was seriously unwell with high fever. But for one second also, she didn't show it. So, that's the person Smriti is," Malolan said.

Smriti stitched together a record partnership of 165 with Voll for the second wicket on Thursday.

Voll was overlooked in favour of spinner Linsey Smith for the first three games of the season, but even with RCB winning, the think-tank chose to adapt and change the combination in order to be one step ahead. The Australian vindicated that move with her innings of 79 in the final. "Linsey was primarily a PowerPlay option for us with the ball along with Bell. We were saying at that time, could we bring in another batter to unlock our batting even more? So, adaptability and changing with the conditions and situation was key. That tough call on Linsey had to be taken," he said.

Suryavanshi goes berserk as India lords over England

The dashing opener's knock of 175 helps the team pile up a massive score in the final; Falconer's century goes in vain as the batting unit fails in pursuit of 412; Ambrish scalps three wickets

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
HARARE

Batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi lit up the grand stage with a jaw-dropping 175 (80b, 15x4, 15x6) to power India to a record-extending sixth ICC under-19 World Cup title with a 100-run victory over England in the final here on Friday.

The triumph adds to India's previous titles in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018 and 2022.

The 14-year-old Suryavanshi recorded the fastest 150 in under-19 cricket history, reaching the milestone in 71 deliveries, as India piled up a daunting 411 for nine after electing to bat. In response, England kept the required run-rate within sight for large parts of the chase but lost wickets at regular intervals, which derailed its pursuit. England was eventually bowled out for 311 with Caleb Falconer scoring a 66-ball 115 (9x4, 7x6).

Suryavanshi registered the highest individual score by any batter in an ICC tournament final. He put on 142 runs in just 19 overs with his skipper Ayush Mhatre, who departed following a 51-ball 53 (7x4, 2x6) after bringing up his half-century.

Suryavanshi was named Player-of-the-Tournament for scoring 439 runs with three half-centuries and a ton.

Another one in the kitty: The Class of 2026 brought home India's sixth under-19 title. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Aaron George c Mayes b Green 9 *(11b, 2x4)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Rew b Lumsden 175 *(80b, 15x4, 15x6)*, Ayush Mhatre c Mayes b Green 53 *(51b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Vedant Trivedi c Mayes b Minto 32 *(36b, 3x4)*, Vihaan Malhotra c Dawkins b Minto 30 *(36b, 2x4)*, Abhigyan Kundu c Albert b Morgan 40 *(31b, 6x4, 1x6)*, R.S. Ambrish b Minto 18 *(24b, 2x4)*, Kanishk Chouhan (not out) 37 *(20b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Khilan Patel c Moores b Morgan 3 *(4b)*, Henil Patel run out 5 *(7b)*, Deepesh Devendran (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for nine wkts. in 50 overs): 411.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (George, 3.6 overs), 2-162 (Mhatre, 18.6), 3-251 (Suryavanshi, 25.3), 4-302 (Vihaan, 34.2), 5-308 (Vedant, 36.3), 6-359 (Kundu, 44.2), 7-367 (Ambrish, 45.1), 8-375 (Khilan, 46.4), 9-393 (Henil, 48.6).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Morgan 9-0-74-2, Green 5-0-49-2, Lumsden 8-0-81-1, Minto 8-0-63-3, Farhan 10-0-77-0, Albert 10-0-66-0.

ENGLAND

Ben Dawkins c Khilan b Mhatre 66 *(56b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Joseph Moores b Ambrish 17 *(16b, 4x4)*, Ben Mayes c Henil b Khilan 45 *(28b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Thomas Rew c Mhatre b Kanishk 31 *(18b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Caleb Falconer c Khilan b Kanishk 115 *(67b, 9x4, 7x6)*, Ralphie Albert run out 0 *(2b)*, Farhan Ahmed c Kundu b Deepesh 1 *(2b)*, Sebastian Morgan c & b Deepesh 0 *(2b)*, James Minto c sub (Enaan) b Ambrish 28 *(41b, 1x4)*, Manny Lumsden c Vedant b Ambrish 3 *(10b)*, Alex Green (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-2): 5; Total (in 40.2 overs): 311.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-19 (Moores, 4.5 overs), 2-93 (Mayes, 12.6), 3-142 (Rew, 17.6), 4-174 (Dawkins, 20.4), 5-174 (Albert, 21.0), 6-177 (Farhan, 21.4), 7-177 (Morgan, 21.6), 8-269 (Minto, 35.2), 9-281 (Lumsden, 37.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Ambrish 9-1-56-3, Henil 4-2-28-0, Deepesh 6-0-64-2, Khilan 8-0-66-1, Kanishk 8.2-0-63-2, Mhatre 5-0-31-1.

Toss: India.

Player-of-the-match & tournament: Suryavanshi.

India won by 100 runs to emerge the champion.

A fitting response to Asia Cup loss: Sharath

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

As the India under-19 boys regained the junior World Cup after four years, there was a common thread in the colts' last two triumphs – former Tamil Nadu cricketer S. Sharath.

The 53-year-old had served as the chairman of the junior selection committee in 2022, too, and returned to the role late last year.

"It was a superb effort from the boys, with everyone contributing," said an elated Sharath in a chat with *The Hindu*. "We have some exciting prospects in this team who can do great things for India."

On the plans that were charted out for the youngsters, Sharath credited V.V.S. Laxman, who heads BCCI's Centre of Excellence, and his colleagues in the committee for arranging several tours to aid their development.

Prior to the tournament, India had lost to Pakistan in the u-19 Asia Cup final, and Sharath felt it served as a wake-up call. "That loss shook them. You learn more from failure, and the way the boys responded was impressive," Sharath said.

The u-19 WC final win was headlined by Vaibhav Suryavanshi's 175, and the chairman described him as a superstar in the making. "To do what he did on the biggest stage was sensational," Sharath said, while also praising Ayush Mhatre's leadership.

While Sharath could not play for India despite having a stellar domestic career, he has made a mark as a selector.

"I know the value of the India cap, and I am thankful to the BCCI for allowing me to contribute to Indian cricket," said Sharath, who was part of the senior selection committee when India won the 2024 T20 World Cup and the 2025 Champions Trophy.

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